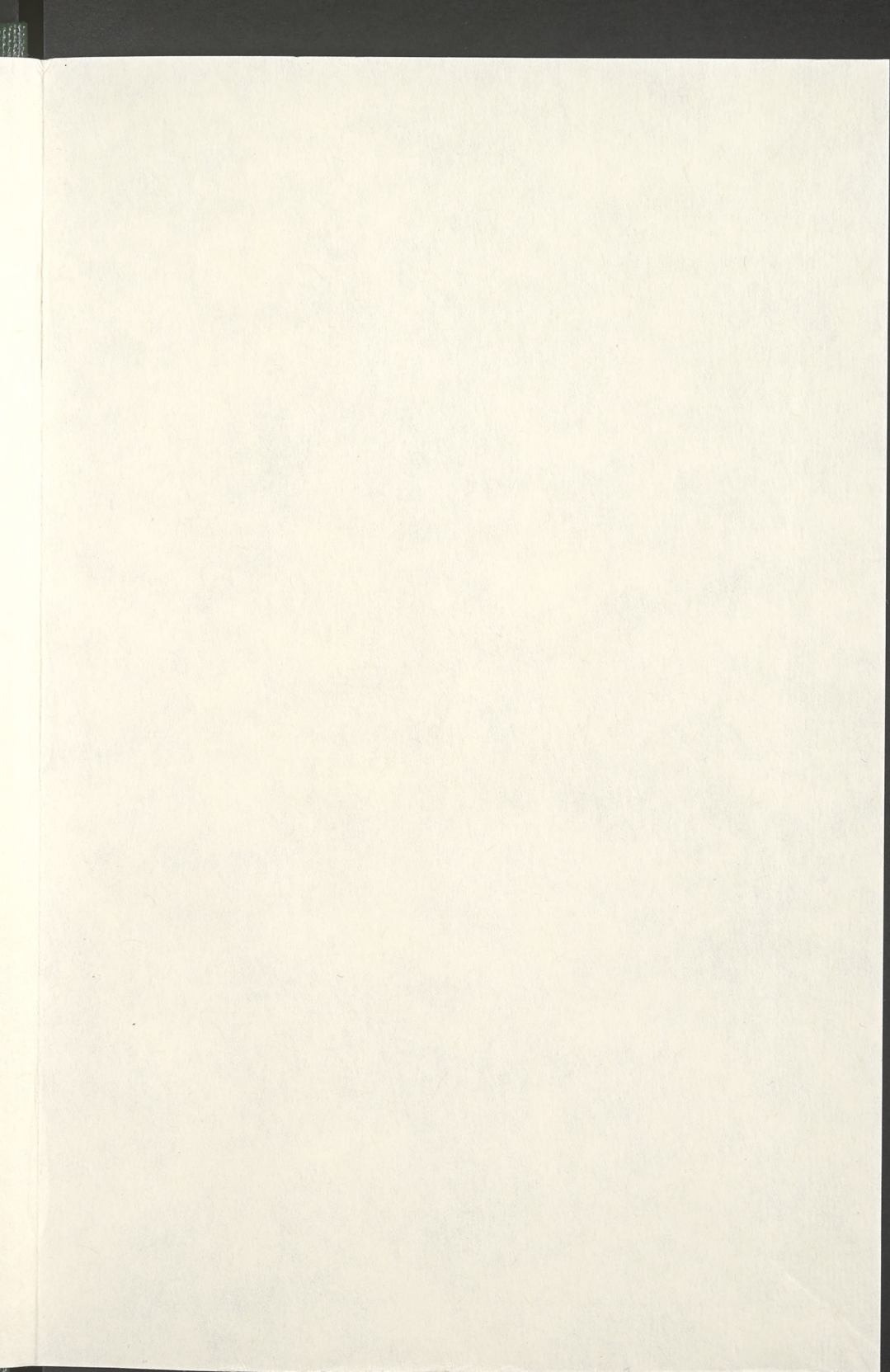


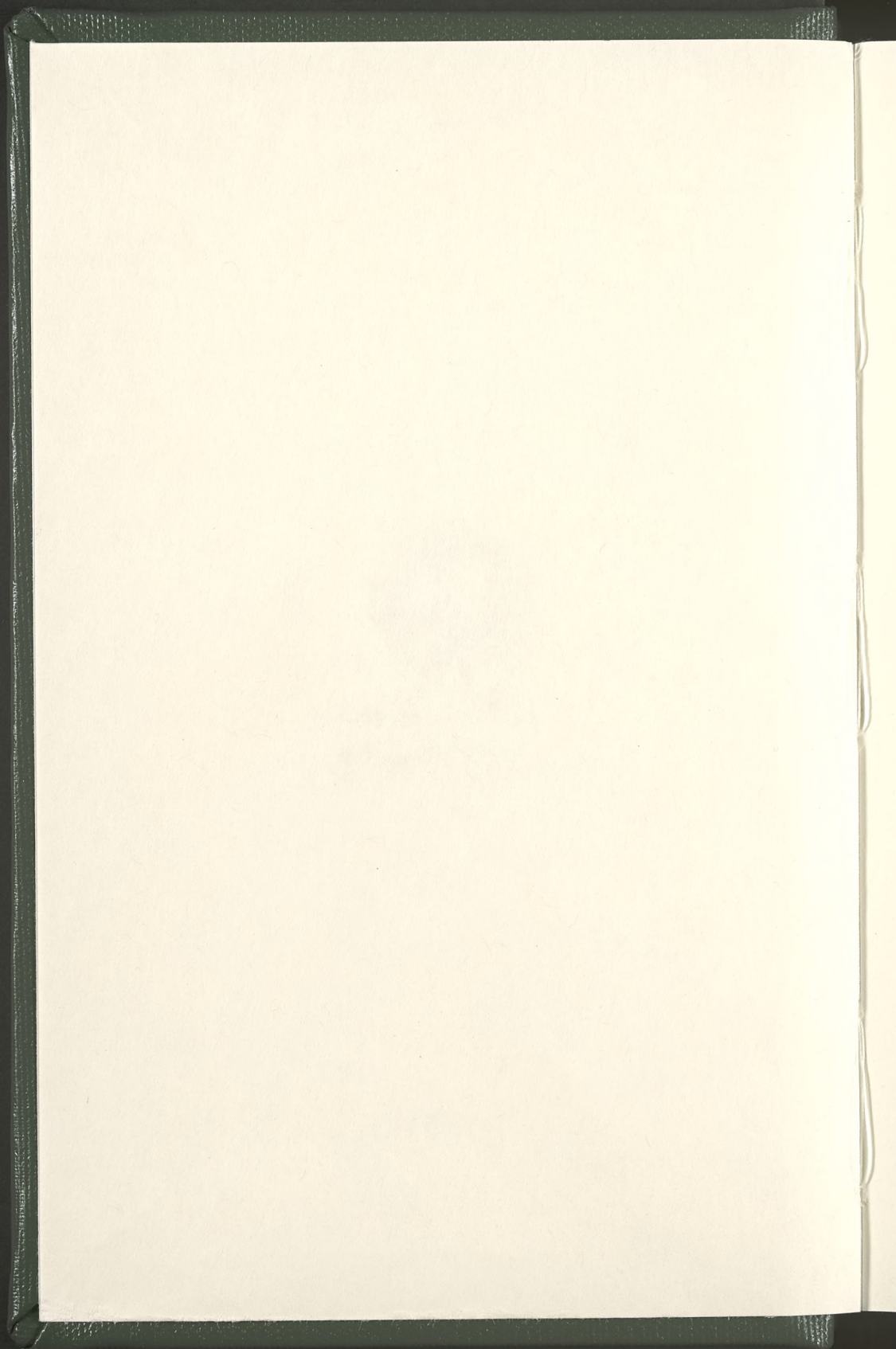


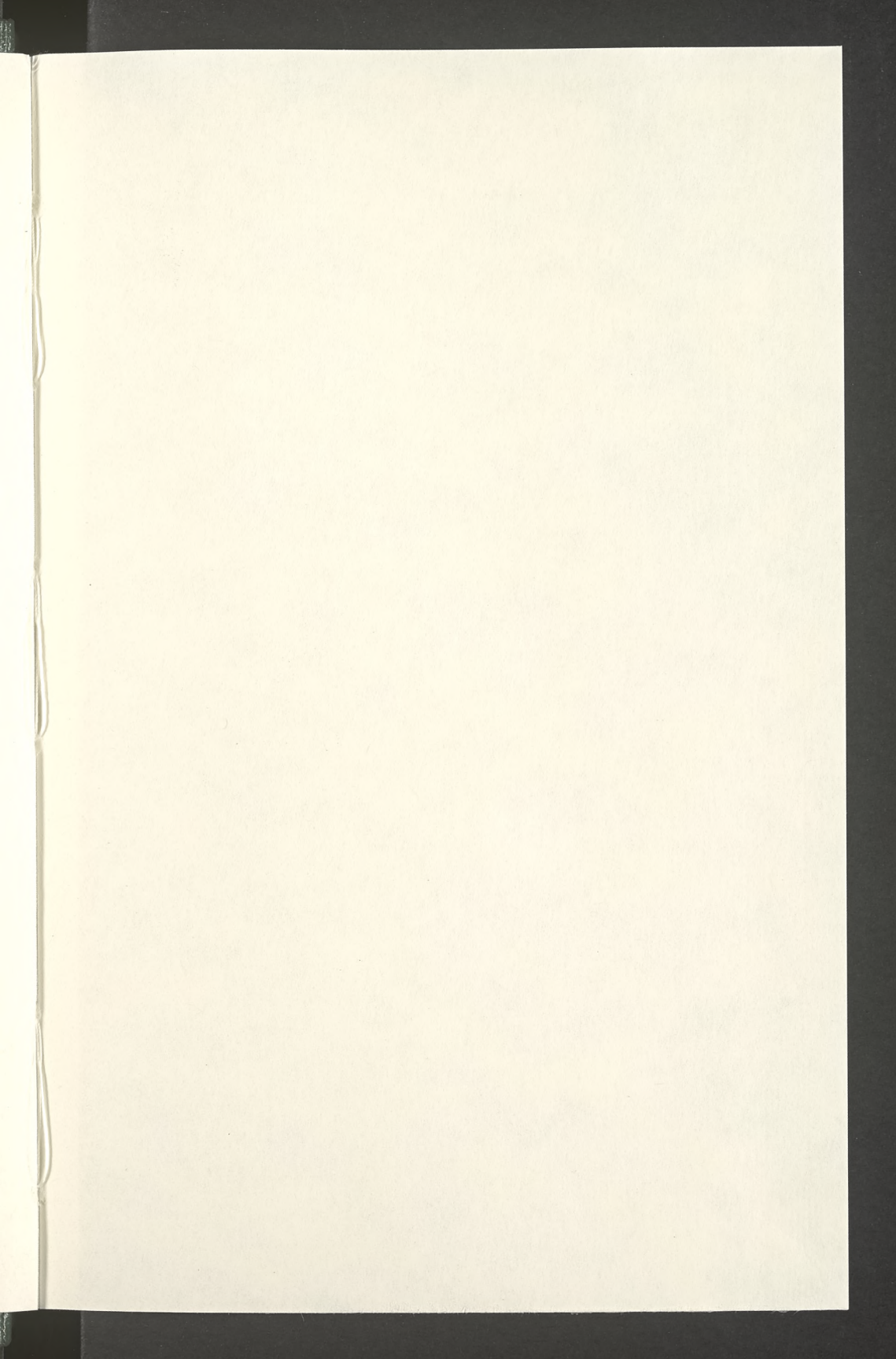
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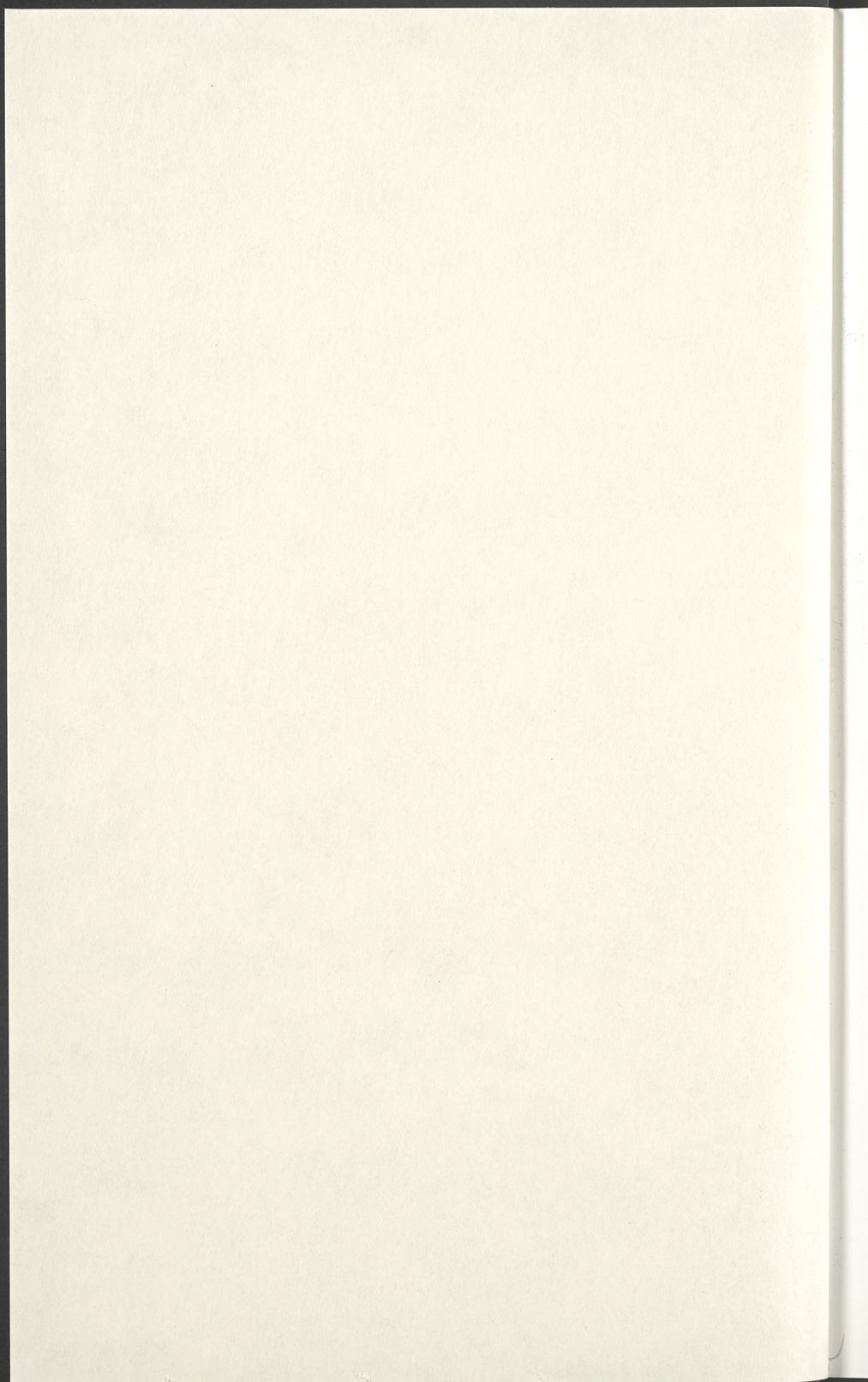
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THE VIRGINIA
NUMISMATIST



VOLUME 25
NUMBER 1
1989

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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 1
JANUARY 1989

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST is the Official Publication of The Virginia Numismatic Association, Inc. and is published six times each year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. All six issues are mailed from Hampton, Virginia at the Third Class Postal Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure and send us your change of address.

All mail relating to The Virginia Numismatist and Advertising therein should be directed to Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, Va. 23220.

Direct all other correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to the secretary-treasurer, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



The Virginia Numismatic Association Board of Directors met on November 12 in Virginia Beach in conjunction with the Tidewater Coin Club Coin Show held at the Virginia Beach Pavilion. The dealers had something for everyone to chose from, the weather was lovely and those of us who spent the weekend had some wonderful seafood dinners.

Our 1989 convention and coin show will be held at the Westpark Hotel in McClean, Virginia on September 8-9-10. Charles Kirtley of Elizabeth City, N.C. will conduct a token and medal auction and expects to have a good lot of Virginia tokens to offer.

Committees have been appointed as follows:

Keith Littlefield - Bourse Chairman
 Jim Beard - Awards and Exhibits Chairman
 Margie Beard - Registration Desk Chairman
 Steve Bennett - Nominations Chairman

It is not too soon to be planning for National Coin Week. "Money Matters" has been chosen as the theme for the NCW celebration scheduled for April 16 through 22, 1989. This is a wonderful chance to inform the non-collecting public and especially the youngsters on how much fun it is to collect.

Last September in McClean several people broached the subject of having an informal get-together of token and medal collectors during our annual convention. If you are interested in participating, drop me a postcard. Sounds like a great idea to me.

On November 10th, Samuel Hastings Littlefield chose Keith and Ellen as his new parents. Congratulations! Now for the big question — will Sam become the youngest member of VNA?

Happy Collecting
 Ginnie Aldridge
 President

IT'S TIME FOR DUES AGAIN

Junior Member	\$ 2.00
Regular Member	\$ 7.00
Club or Organization	\$10.00

PLEASE SEND TO: Keith Littlefield, Sec.-Treas.
 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003



THE MONEY STORE

BUY — SELL — TRADE — BUY — SELL — TRADE — BUY — SELL

WOODEN NICKELS from '86 & '87 conventions are still available. Price 50¢ each plus SASE. Order from:

VNA, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

PAPER PLAY MONEY and other types of paper "Fun Money" wanted. This includes bills advertising coin shows. Will trade one-for-one for other bills, or buy. Quantities O.K.

ROBERT W. ROSS, III, P.O. BOX 765, WILMINGTON, DE, 19899-0765

TOP PRICES PAID for Private scrip-merchant, Sheriff, Iron Furnaces, any scarce or rare Va. County note, any Virginia National Bank note, large or small, west of Wytheville. Name your price.

GARLAND S. STEVENS, P.O. BOX 243, WYTHEVILLE, VA 24382 (703) 228-2553

VIRGINIA BUSINESS DIRECTORIES, prior to 1930, wanted. Virginia tokens wanted for my personal collection.

ELVIN B. MILLER, P.O. BOX 366, TOPPING, VA 23169

WANTED FOR MY COLLECTIONS: Uncirculated Colonial and Continental paper money and 18th century American lottery tickets.

JAMES R. HOSLER, 80 S. MAIN ST., MANHEIM, PA 17545 (717) 665-2798

CHECKS FOR SALE, "Fun Assortments" 25-100 20¢ each, 1880-1980 no rarities. Will trade. Satisfaction or refund. TEN FREE CHECKS to new ASCC members for #10 SASE.

HERMAN BORAKER, P.O. BOX 204, ROCKY FORD, CO 81067

FOR SALE, wooden nickels from the 1988 VNA convention; 50¢ each plus SASE. Order from:

PAGE MANN, P.O. BOX 1684, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23187-1684

WANTED: Miniature DAV tags, prefer Virginia, but collect all U.S.

GINNIE ALDRIDGE, 515 PINEHURST AVE., COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23823

MONEY STORE RULES

You may send in your ad on a 15¢ postcard. Send it to:
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- Ads will be run for two issues, and may be renewed.
- Ads must be limited to 30 words, not including name, address, etc.
- Ads must be typed or printed.
- Only one ad per person per issue can be accepted.

EDITORIAL

One evening recently, when we had just sat down to dinner, the telephone rang. The caller announced that he represented a coin investment firm in New York. I didn't catch the name, and, even if I had, I would not care to give them any free publicity by repeating it here. I was urged to avail myself of a "potentially profitable" investment opportunity by purchasing 20 coin rolls of 1982 Washington commemorative half dollars in proof at "only" \$395 per roll (that's \$19.75 per coin). Eager to return to my dinner, I told him that, being a collector not an investor, I was not interested, and ended the conversation. I don't keep abreast of the current prices of U.S. coins, but when I checked up, I found the situation to be just as I suspected: local dealers were offering the same coin at \$7.50. Adding on the sales tax brings the price to \$7.84, which is a far cry from \$19.75. That deal would indeed have resulted in a fat profit, but all of it would have accrued to those characters in New York; anyone who took them up on their offer is going to wait a very long time just to break even. A few days later a friend handed me a fancy brochure he had received in the mail. It was from a New York firm whose name suggested that it was an agency of the U.S. Government, which, of course, it was not. Much against my will, I forced myself to read every word of that brochure, and seldom have I met with such a load of unmitigated drivel, balderdash and hype. They were offering uncirculated 1883-0, 1884-0 and 1885-0 Morgan Dollars to collectors and investors at "just" \$95.00 per coin, plus \$5.00 for postage and handling. Needless to say, this is a poor bargain, since local dealers sell the same coins at about \$27.50 each. Now, as far as I know, there is no law that prohibits the sale of merchandise at several times its true value to a willing buyer, and we probably have already more than enough laws designed to protect the gullible from the consequences of their own ignorance. Nevertheless, shenanigans like these are doing much harm to our hobby, and the purveyors of such stuff are an infestation of vermin sucking the life blood of numismatics. Folks whose introduction to coin collecting has been through response to some hyped up solicitation may, as they become more knowledgeable, chalk up their loss to experience. Others, and we'll never know just how many others, will quit in disgust. What can be done to remedy this sad state of affairs? It's hard to say. The sharpies operate from beyond the pale. Few, if any, of them belong to ANA or any of the state or professional numismatic associations, and they thumb their noses at the codes of ethics imposed by such organizations. But these people did not appear from nowhere, they are simply the predators attracted by the ripe odor arising from the current craze to get rich quick by collecting coins. What we need is a return to basics. Coin collecting is, after all, a hobby; we do it for pleasure, at least most of us do. We need to place a lot more emphasis on the solid virtues of collecting for its own sake, and a lot less emphasis on monetary profits. I'm not intimating that this would bring on a new golden age. It wouldn't, but it would at least provide a much needed increase in order and stability. Sharp practices and their practitioners have always been around to prey on the unwary. The gentleman pictured on the Bridgeport, Connecticut commemorative half dollar, Phineas T. Barnum, claimed that he never said, "there's a sucker born every minute", but he might as well have, for it's all too true.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

The Board of Directors of the Virginia Numismatic Association held its regular quarterly meeting on Saturday, November 12, at the Virginia Beach Pavilion. President Ginnie Aldridge presided, and nine members were present. The following items of business were considered:

- Keith Littlefield was voted the Outstanding VNA Member for the year 1988 for his diligent work both as Secretary-Treasurer and as Bourse Chairman.
- Heard a report from Frank Hannah on the Affleck Catalog revision project. This work, **The Obsolete Paper Money of Virginia**, by the late Charles Affleck, was originally published in two volumes in 1968 and 1969. It is still the standard catalog for Virginia currency, but over the past twenty years the discovery of numerous unpublished items has indicated the need for a new and enlarged edition. Preparation of the new book, undertaken by a committee, has been in progress for several years, and is now nearing completion. The new book is expected to be ready for sale by September 1989. The new work, which will be in one volume, will provide a considerably enlarged listing of 19th Century Virginia state, city, town and county notes, tradesman's scrip and banknotes. It will be the most complete listing of such material available anywhere, it will be profusely illustrated, and each entry has been given a catalog number. Publication of the new work is going to require a great deal of money. The Board voted an initial sum of \$1200 for preparation of illustrations, but much more will be needed. Suggested ways of raising the funds included the sale of special presentation copies at an advanced price, and sale of advance subscriptions. It was noted that funds for the 1968 book were raised through a donated auction sale.
- Discussed the possibility of a spring get together of mini convention (no bourse) somewhere in the Valley during the spring of 1989. See the enclosed flyer.

1989 VNA CONVENTION

VNA's 31st Annual Convention and Coin Show will be held once more at the Westpark Hotel, 8401 Westpark Drive, McLean, Va., Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 8, 9 & 10, 1989. Further information will be published in forthcoming issues.

AN APOLOGY

The article on Czechoslovakian Commemorative Coins which appeared in the November issue was written by Mr. Joseph E. Bush of Richmond, Va., to whom we extend both a sincere apology for the omission of his name in the heading, and many thanks for submitting his work for publication. Apologies also to Jerry Grezdenza for bungling his name. Your Ed. promises to do a more careful job of proofreading in future.

EARLY BANKING IN NORTH CAROLINA

By Jim Szarna

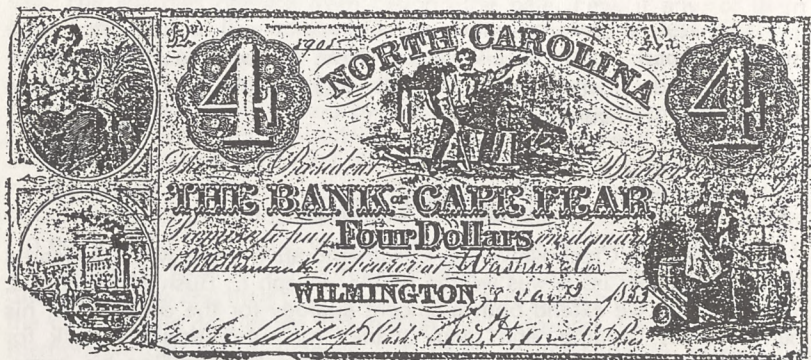
By the start of the 19th century, it was quite apparent that a banking system was necessary to maintain financial order. The colonial banking system of both the state and Continental issues had proved totally inadequate. The state of financial affairs was poor at best and in most cases, nonexistent. With no circulating currency that wasn't continually depreciating, merchants resorted to issuing their own scrip. Two examples of this are the Moravian scrip issued on 1803 in Salem and the scrip issued by Joseph Ross in Raleigh. Both were small change denominations in pence.

The first bank to be chartered in North Carolina was the Bank of Cape Fear. Its main office was located at 14/15 Front Street in Wilmington. Capital was \$250,000. Agents were established at Hillsboro (1816), Charlotte (1814), Salem (1814), Fayetteville (1807), Raleigh (1808), Salisbury (1808), Washington (1836), and Asheville (1843). The role of the agent was twofold. He took in deposits and made loans. No banknotes were issued by agents. Up until 1846, all banknotes for the bank were issued at Wilmington. In 1846, all of the agents, with the exception of Hillsboro, were converted to branches. Hillsboro was kept as an agency until 1847, then closed.

A new branch at Greensboro was added in 1851. The bank issued banknotes in denominations of \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4, \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8, \$9, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 — in over 60 different designs. Branches issued the same denominations except for \$1 and \$2.

At the height of its issuing authority in 1864, the bank had \$2,137,000 in banknotes in circulation, with less than \$110,000 in gold and silver coins in their vaults. The Bank of Cape Fear was the longest lived of all the early banks in the state, finally ceasing operation in 1868 and closing in 1870, a life of 66 years.

In 1805 the second bank was chartered in the state. This was The Bank of New Bern. The main office was located in New Bern. Capitalization was \$200,000. This bank chose to establish branches rather than agencies.



Bank of Cape Fear. \$4, 1853

They were quickly established in Halifax (1806), Raleigh (1807), and Edenton (1807). The bank issued banknotes in \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5 and \$10 denominations. The Bank of New Bern ceased currency issues in 1834 and closed its doors on December 31, 1837. At the height of its operation in 1825, the bank had a circulation of \$740,000 against gold and silver of \$180,000. Just as a note, the salaries for the bank cashier was \$500/year, the president \$1000. All banknotes from the Bank of New Bern are considered rare.

The last of the early banks was The State Bank of North Carolina, chartered in 1810, with a capital of \$500,000. The main office was established at Raleigh with branches in Salisbury (1811), New Bern (1812), Tarboro (1813), and Fayetteville (1813). The bank issued banknotes of \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 denominations. The bank was not rechartered and was closed in 1834. All banknotes from this bank are considered scarce.

Collecting the early issues of these three banks might be considered the ultimate collecting challenge. The surviving examples represent less than 1/100 of 1% of the total issue of the three banks combined. Add to this the fact most of the early records were destroyed so one cannot be certain what was even issued. You now have a lifelong pursuit.

I encourage anyone who may have notes on these or any of the early banks of North Carolina to contact me, as I'm working on The Society of Paper Money Collectors research project on North Carolina. This work will cover all the obsolete state banks as well as all script issues from 1800-1900. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please write to P.O. Box 1235, Southern Pines, NC 28387.



Bank of Cape Fear. \$10, 1853

The foregoing article originally appeared in the 1988 Convention issue of the North Carolina Numismatic Association Journal. Sincere thanks to both the NCNA and the author, Mr. Jim Sazama, for permission to republish it here, Ed.

A NEW EXHIBITION AT THE SMITHSONIAN

By Jim Ruehrmund

"Rome at War as Seen Through Coins", an exhibition offering a different view of ancient Rome's history, opened in the Hall of Money and Medals at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History on October 22, and will continue through June, 1989. The exhibition was organized jointly by the museum's National Numismatic Collection, the Staatliche Münzsammlung of Munich, West Germany, and Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. The two latter institutions were represented by Senior Curator Dr. Bernhard Overbeck and Professor Thomas Burns respectively.

The exhibition includes more than 400 coins associated with Roman military operations from the first century B.C. through the demise of the Western Empire at the hands of German invaders in the late fifth century A.D. The coins are organized into 12 sections, and are supplemented by maps, photographic enlargements, and portraits of Roman emperors. The labels are clear and precise, and the splendid overall layout gives evidence of much dedicated work on the part of those who prepared it.

Mrs. Elvira Clain-Stefanelli, Executive Director of the National Numismatic Collection, said, "In ancient times coins served as the best means of communicating to the world their (Roman) beliefs, political plans and the military successes of their emperors. Today they provide us with wonderful historical insight into their culture." They do indeed, and this exhibition has assembled a stunning array of coins in gold, silver and bronze, some great rarities, and some quite common, but all dealing with various aspects of the Roman army and its numerous campaigns.



Brass sestertius, 38 mm., of Caligula (A.D. 37-41). The reverse depicts him addressing his soldiers.

The Roman Empire was established, extended and maintained by military power, and the Roman army was a remarkable organization by any standard. Nothing like it was seen again in the Western World until as

late as the Seventeenth Century. Some deride the Pax Romana, the Roman Peace by noting that the Roman army was usually engaged in fighting somewhere, but they miss the point. The Romans motto was "Si vis pacem para bellum", if you seek peace, prepare for war. Most of their campaigns were on the periphery of the empire, and for a very long time they enabled the civil population to live their lives in peace. Others look askance at the Romans for their subjugation of freedom loving but less advanced peoples, but, all too often, freedom to these people meant freedom to indulge in large scale brigandage, piracy and other disorderly activities. Spaniards, Gauls and others all resisted Rome valiantly. In the end they were conquered, but within a few generations they were proud to style themselves Romans, and the languages spoken by their descendants to this day are derived from Latin. There were, of course, certain notable exceptions to this, but in the main the rule of Rome for centuries represented civilization and stability.

Rome never managed to conquer the Germans, and was ultimately conquered by them, but this did not end Roman influence on Western Civilization. Our concepts of law and government, our alphabet, our calendar and innumerable customs and usages were all passed down to us from ancient Rome. On a specific subject close to our hearts, namely coinage, we find that Roman concepts still form the basis of coin designs today. If you find this hard to believe, you must go to the Smithsonian and see for yourself.

So much for Roman history, now to return to the present. The opening of the exhibition was celebrated with a reception on Friday evening, October 21. It was, as all Smithsonian functions are, a gala affair. Mrs. Clain-Stefanelli spoke briefly on the background of the exhibition, and introduced Dr. Overbeck and Prof. Burns who spoke on the significance of the coins and their relation to the society which produced them. We then had a chance to view the coins, guided by an elegant brochure printed by Multi Print of Hampton, Va. Clearly, the Smithsonian knows where to go to get quality printing done. The coins are simply beyond my powers of description. Many pieces familiar to us only through illustrations in books are there to be seen, but you will find it difficult to see everything in one visit, and you should plan to come several times.

Later on everyone retired to a meeting room on the ground floor for drinks, hors d'oeuvres and conversation. Many old friends were there, including Frank and Marge Hannah, and others, some of whom I had not seen for years. Members of the Ancient Numismatic Society of Washington were there in considerable numbers as well as educators, archaeologists and other interesting people. It was a thoroughly pleasant and memorable evening. We drove over a hundred miles in heavy rain in order to be there, but it was more than worth the effort.

On Saturday morning the museum presented a colloquium on the relations between the Roman Empire and the Germans. In lectures illustrated with slides, Dr. Overbeck described the numismatic evidence, followed by Prof. Burns, who discussed the historical aspects. This session was both interesting and enjoyable, and it materially augmented the visual treat provided by the coins.

NEWS OF OUR CLUBS

BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB

Best wishes to the BRCC, the new club in Charlottesville, Va. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Robert Smith Music Studio, (upstairs), 105 North 1st. St., in Charlottesville.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB

The TCC held its fall show, a most enjoyable affair, at the Va. Beach Pavilion, Nov. 11-13. The club meets on the 2nd. Wednesday each month at the Lake Wright Motor Hotel on Northampton Blvd., Va. Beach. To get there, follow the signs for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The November meeting of the WNS featured a talk on Civil War Tokens by Dave Schenkman. They held their annual Christmas party and buffet on Dec. 20, and members exhibited Christmas related material.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB

The RCC held its annual Christmas dinner meeting at Extra Billy's on Dec. 6, doing full justice to the excellent ribs, barbecue, etc., and enjoying lots of fun, fellowship and door prizes.

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The SVNA meets at 7:30 p.m. the 4th Monday of each month in the community room at Cavalier Square Shopping Center in Hopewell.

ROANOKE COUNTY'S SEQUICENTENNIAL MEDAL

Roanoke County, Virginia, celebrated its sesquicentennial in 1988 with the issue of commemorative medals, 100 in silver, and 1000 in bronze. The medals are two inches in diameter; the obverse, which depicts three county landmarks, is from the same die used for the centennial medals of 1963; the reverse features the county seal with the inscription, "SESQUICENTENNIAL — A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING". Sales commenced in March, and about 300 had been sold when a county employee noticed that on the reverses the word "BEAUTIFUL" was spelled "BEAUTITUL". News of this, published in newspapers all over the country, resulted in a quick sellout of the entire issue. The manufacturer supplied a second batch of 150 silver and 1000 bronze medals with correct inscriptions, and these, too, have sold well. As of mid November only five of the one ounce silver pieces, and 300 of the bronze remained unsold.

Collectors wishing to purchase these medals should write to:

Ms. Cathy Davis
Roanoke County Sesquicentennial
P.O. Box 29800
Roanoke, VA 24018

Prices, which include the State Sales Tax, are: \$31.35 for the silver, and \$10.45 for the bronze; postage charge is \$2.50 for each medal.

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following individuals have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association and will become members within 20 days from the mailing of this notice unless some adverse reaction is received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
Nelson E. Dillehunt, Roanoke, Virginia	Jake Raborn
James L. Glass, Jr., Vinton, Virginia	Corbett B. Davis
Ronald Louis Staves, Richmond, Virginia	Jim Ruehrmund
Stephen L. Utz, Madison, Virginia	Keith Littlefield



SHOW CALENDAR

Feb. 9-12	Baltimore, MD Convention Center	Suburban Washington Coin Show
Mar. 3-5	Chattanooga, TN Quality Inn	Tennessee State Numismatic Society
Mar. 4-5	Fayetteville, NC Sherator Motor Inn	Cumberland Co. Coin Club
Mar. 11-12	Waynesboro, VA Red Carpet Inn	Shenandoah Valley Coin Show
Mar. 18-19	Lexington, NC National Guard Armory	Eagle Coin Club
Apr. 6-8	New Carrollton, MD Howard Johnson Motel	D.C. Tri-Club Show
Sept. 8-10	McLean, VA Westpark Hotel	VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL COIN WEEK

National Coin Week, 1989, will be observed from April 16th to 22nd.; the theme this year is "MONEY MATTERS". Further information, as available, will be published in the next issue, but mid April is only three months away. If your club is planning projects or events for Coin Week, now is the time to start preparing. This offers a great opportunity to share our hobby with others, and attract new members.

NUMISMATICS GOES TO THE DOGS

By *Sophie S. Ruehrmund*

as told to

Jim Ruehrmund

Since Richard Adams wrote that book, **The Plague Dogs**, and, so to speak, let the cat out of the bag that we dogs can talk, I have decided that it's high time we came out of the dog house, and started expressing ourselves in public.

Permit me to introduce myself. As you may have noticed in the heading, my name is Sophie, and my middle initial, "S", stands for Schnauzer, which is my breed. I am a Virginian of German ancestry, and am proud to state that I am also a pure bred bitch, and the top dog in my family. Although I can neither read nor write, and have absolutely no intention of learning to do either one, I am full of ideas. We Schnauzers are very perceptive, and a heap smarter than you ever imagined. I'll admit that most of my ideas involve ways and means to hijack the cat's food, but living my whole life with a numismatist has caused some of that to rub off on me. Both scratching and shampooing have failed to remove it, so I've decided to pass it on to you humans for what it may be worth.

This morning, when my master, Jim, was griping again about how few articles he gets for the magazine, I got up out of my bed and told him then and there that I would give him some of my ideas on dog license tags if he would write them down. Jim stood right up on his hind legs, and allowed as how that was a splendid idea, so we immediately set to work.



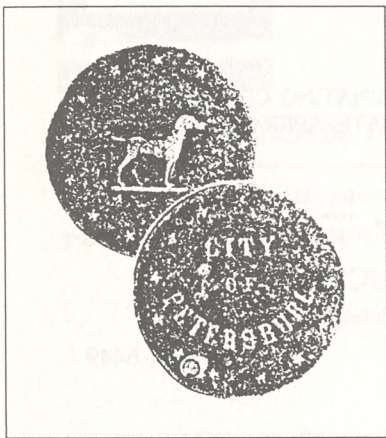
Sophie models her old
Russian Dog Tag

I happen to own a very unusual dog tag that was issued long ago in a place in Russia called Petrograd, or Petersburg, which is called Leningrad today. Just to look at it you would be hard put to say what it was and where it came from, but it was once in an old collection of Russian coins, and had a piece of paper with it that told its history. It is 33 millimeters in diameter, and made of thin iron, tin plated; there is a hole at the top so it can be hung on the dog's collar. It has a picture of a seated dog facing left with the number 2017 below, which must be the license number. On

the left is the number 86, which probably stands for the year 1886, and on the right is 50K, which I believe represents the license fee of 50 kopeks, or half a ruble. It is a very curious object, and I have often wondered what sort of life that Russian dog who once wore it must have led.

This leads me to think of another place called Petersburg which is right here in Virginia. Jim told me that Dave Schenkman's book on Virginia

tokens lists a 27 millimeter brass piece that has on one side a standing dog with stars around her. The other side has a border of stars and the legend: CITY / of / PETERSBURG. Dave says that these are very rare, and, although they have been known to collectors since 1884, nothing is known of their history. Almost all of the known examples are pierced near the edge, and they are, in my considered opinion, dog license tags. What other possible use could they have had? This, by the way, increases their value as far as I am concerned.



The enigmatic piece from
Petersburg

Dog license tags are, I feel, a legitimate collecting objective for you humans to pursue. True they aren't coins or tokens, and you can't use them to buy Gainesburgers, Doggie Treats and other essential supplies, but they are a good deal more like coins than some of the stuff you collect. After all, if President Ginnie can collect miniature car license tags, dog license tags certainly deserve equal attention. I urge you readers to discuss this matter frankly with your dogs, and see if they don't agree.

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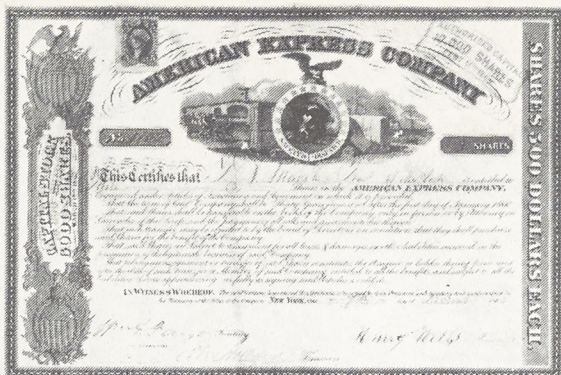
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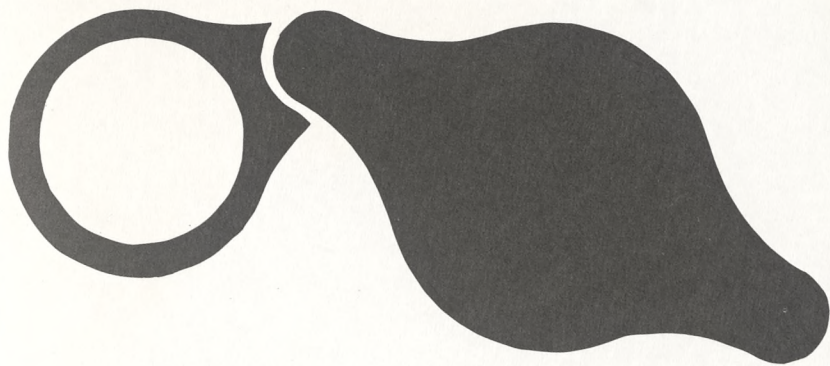
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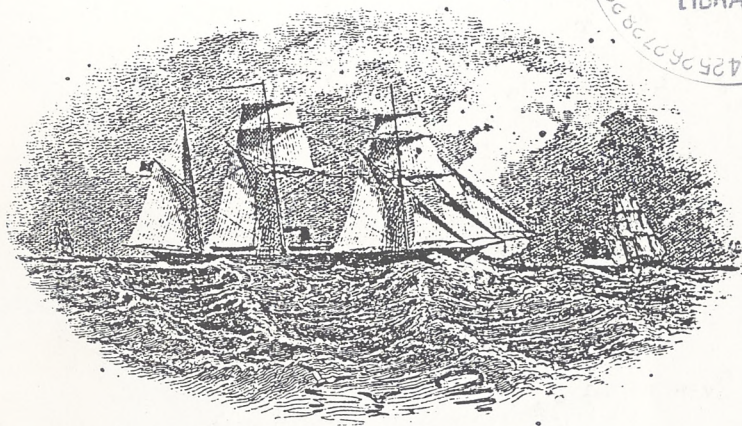
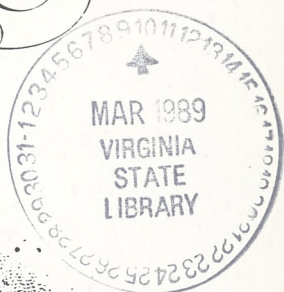
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VOLUME 25
NUMBER 2
1989

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The deadline for all copy is the first of the month preceding month of issue (e.g., April 1st for May 10th issue).

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 2
MARCH 1989

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST is the Official Publication of The Virginia Numismatic Association, Inc. and is published six times each year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. All six issues are mailed from Hampton, Virginia at the Third Class Postal Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure and send us your change of address.

All mail relating to The Virginia Numismatist and Advertising therein should be directed to Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, Va. 23220.

Direct all other correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to the secretary-treasurer, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



I often hear the question, "What advantage does our club gain from membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association?", so here are my thoughts on ways to improve the club-VNA relationship, and the advantages of being under VNA's umbrella.

1. Put our Editor on the mailing list for your club bulletin so news of your activities can be published; it can gain you new members.
2. Show Calendar — inform Editor of upcoming coin shows, and do it as soon as you have fixed on a time and place so the information can be published in several issues.
3. If your club wishes a notice on table sales published, we will be happy to do so. Please send it in as early as you possibly can.
4. Send your Club Secretary's name and address to VNA Secretary, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, VA 22003, and he will notify each one of the date, time and place of our VNA quarterly Board Meetings. Representatives from your club are cordially invited to attend all Board Meetings.
5. Your support as a member club helps us to publish our magazine and reference works on Virginia numismatics. As a case in point, we expect completion by September, 1989, of a one volume book on obsolete paper money of Virginia, which will include numerous previously unpublished items discovered in the past twenty years.
6. Send Editor notice for publication of date, time and place of your regular monthly meetings.

I am very proud to be associated with VNA and we, the officers, are here to help in any way. The above items are just a few of the many ways we can work together. By being unified, we can only move forward, and by working together to promote coin collecting in Virginia, it will benefit all of us — on both local and state levels.

Have a good spring, and may you find that elusive item necessary to your collection.

Happy Collecting
Ginnie Aldridge
President

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1989 DUES?

Junior Member	\$ 2.00
Regular Member	\$ 7.00
Club or Organization	\$10.00

PLEASE SEND TO: Keith Littlefield, Sec.-Treas.
3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003



THE MONEY STORE

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WOODEN NICKELS from '86 & '87 conventions are still available. Price 50¢ each plus SASE. Order from:

VNA, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

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- Ads will be run for two issues, and may be renewed.
- Ads must be limited to 30 words, not including name, address, etc.
- Ads must be typed or printed.
- Only one ad per person per issue can be accepted.

CONDOLENCES

The Virginia Numismatic Association extends heartfelt condolences to Vice President Greg Tucker and his family on the death last November of Greg's mother, Mrs. Laura L. Tucker of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

1989 CONVENTION AUCTION SALE

The auction sale at our 1989 Convention will be conducted by Mr. Charles E. Kirtley of Elizabeth City, NC. The sale will be held at 4:00 PM, Saturday, September 9, 1989 at the Tysons Westpark Hotel. The auctioneer is soliciting consignments of better grade tokens, medals, U.S. and foreign coins and paper money. Anyone wishing to consign material, or needing further information should contact:

Mr. Charles E. Kirtley
P.O. Box 2273
Elizabeth City, NC 27906
Telephone: 1- (800) 525-3399

SOUTH CAROLINA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The South Carolina Numismatic Association will hold its 17th Annual Convention and Coin Show October 27-29, 1989, at the Hyatt Regency, 220 North Main St., Greenville, SC. The Bourse Chairman is: Mr. Johnny T. King, P.O. Box "O", Anderson, SC 29622; Tel. (803) 226-3048.

THE STANDARD CATALOG OF UNITED STATES OBSOLETE BANK NOTES, 1782-1866

By James A. Haxby and Barbara Ann Bellin; published by Krause Publications, Iola, WI; four volumes totaling 2702 pages; price for the set: \$195.00

Krause Publications has done it again! Both they and the authors are to be congratulated on this splendid piece of work. Although coverage is restricted to the notes of regularly chartered banks (private banks and most savings banks are excluded), it nevertheless lists over 77,000 notes, and contains about 15,000 illustrations. For the general collector of obsolete bank notes, or for that matter, the specialist, too, this is now the standard reference. It is a pleasure just to browse through it, and, although the price may seem a bit steep, you get a lot for your money, and it is worth every penny.

COLLECTING COINS

By David Armstrong

How do you get started collecting tokens? In my case it was easy: my friends collected them, and were able to advise me on areas of interest, values, condition and so forth. My favorite dealer seemed to have a constant trickle of affordable items for my study. Another influence was from the local coin club. Several of the more senior members, who collected tokens, would give short talks on them, and even sell a few on occasion.

Why collect tokens? They are plentiful, relatively inexpensive, do not require special storage facilities, and there are bargains still to be had. Of course, bargains are in the eye of the beholder. You may believe that a beat up U.S. half cent at \$15.00 is a great buy. It may be, but I would rather purchase a half-corroded, much used German emergency money token for \$1.75 (Please send no specimens on approval!)

What token collecting areas are available? This is easy. In this article I propose to discuss some of the areas, mention a few others, and include some information on available books and catalogs.

Canadian tokens are my favorites. My first purchase was an Upper Canada (Quebec) halfpenny of 1854 featuring St. George slaying the dragon. The cost in VG condition was less than \$2.00. This is probably the most often encountered token from the Canadian Colonial Period, and the multitude of minute varieties will keep anyone who cares about such things occupied. I don't collect these varieties myself, but they are a fascinating aspect of collecting Canadian tokens.

Since that first purchase I have been fortunate enough to acquire tokens from a number of areas in Canada, including Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Montreal. Tokens from all of these areas are

readily available at reasonable prices. Also, prices are stable; purchases made five years ago have not gone up appreciably in price, except for the devaluation of the U.S. dollar.

Of course, there are more exotic and expensive Canadian tokens, and, as with any kind of coin these days, pieces in choice condition bring considerably higher prices. If scarcity appeals to you, try to find, much less buy, tokens issued by the Hudson's Bay Company. Some of these feature a beaver



Bank of Upper Canada Token

on one side, and are found in values denominated in "beavers" or fractions thereof. Since beaver pelts were the staple of trade and value in the company's territory, it was sensible to issue tokens expressed in beavers as a substitute medium of exchange.

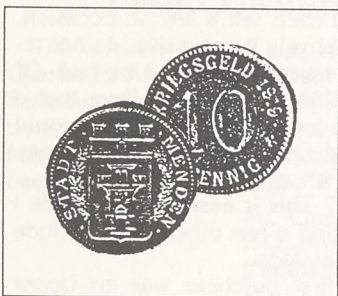
For those interested in Canadian tokens, I recommend *The Charlton Standard Catalog of Canadian Colonial Tokens*, which specializes and tries to provide one numbering system for all the known colonial tokens. It is

quite an undertaking. I also recommend *The Coins of Canada* by J.A. Haxby and R.C. Willey, which has an excellent section on tokens as well as regular issues.

Another token collecting area where material is available at reasonable prices is Germany. The Emergency Money Society put out a small booklet on the subject entitled, *Emergency Coins of Germany, 1914-1923*. The tokens will be easier to find than the booklet, but if one should be offered to you, buy it if this area interests you. The prices are outdated, but there

is plenty of useful information on issuing authorities, types, denominations and so forth.

Hard money was scarce worldwide during World War I and the period immediately following, when Germany was ruled by the Weimar Republic. This means that, as in the case of Canadian tokens, the German tokens actually circulated as currency. These tokens are made of zinc or iron, and usually show their age. In fact, their appearance

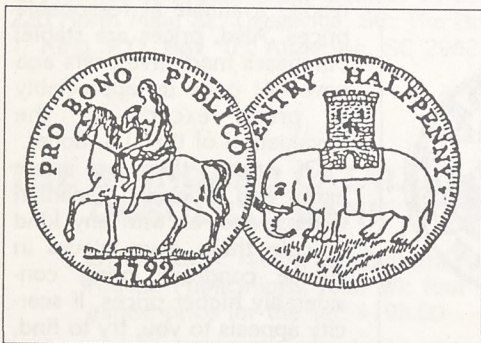


Zinc Token of Menden, Prussia

reminds one of the U.S. wartime steel cents. Because of their generally poor appearance, and the very plentiful number of varieties minted, demand, at least in the U.S., is low. Porcelain tokens and encased postage stamp tokens are exceptions.

The best way to get started is to collect from one city or region in Germany. For example, I was stationed with the army near Frankfurt and also in Bavaria, and I love to discover tokens from those areas. I would generally pay up to several dollars for some of the scarcer pieces, and I once paid

\$10.00 for an uncirculated specimen. It was sold as a proof! One group of German tokens does sell for inflated prices: issues from the State of Westphalia. These feature the same prancing horse that is found on the much earlier issues of Braunschweig. If you want them, they will cost much more than the issues of Coblenz or Bonn, or almost any other town in Germany.



Coventry Halfpenny, 1792

A third area for the beginning token collector is British trade tokens. These were issued in the late 1700's, and are plentiful today. The usual denomination is the halfpenny. Many specimens, issued at the time, are lightweight, counterfeit, or both. Essentially, anyone could issue tokens, and use them in trade. Thus, a lightweight token would garner the maker a greater profit if he received full value in trade.

British 18th Century tokens are, for the most part, of high quality, and even worn specimens are still very collectable. Anyone should be able to

find a subject of interest. Geographical regions, political themes, historic places, personalities, etc. are found in abundance. Some of the issues were made especially for collectors at the time.

Some like to collect only those tokens that were actually issued for trade. Many of these feature work scenes or structures, often in great detail. If this appeals to you, go to the library and check out *British Trade Tokens: A Social and Economic History* by J.R.S. Whiting. If your taste is more for the broader range of issues, you might purchase a copy of Seaby's *British Trade Tokens and Their Values*. This is a very informative and useful book, although it is arranged according to English counties, which is somewhat awkward for American users who don't know that London is found under Middlesex. This little book covers not only the 18th century English tokens, but also lists 17th and early 19th Century issues, and covers Scotland, Wales and Ireland as well as England.

I started collecting 18th Century British tokens after I was able to purchase one picturing a ship-of-the-line, with an inscription referring to the "Wooden Walls of England". Sea stories from the period have always been one of my favorite hobbies, and my interest was immediate and lasting. Other tokens that are especially interesting feature intricate building facades or bridges. One of the most popular tokens has Lady Godiva on the obverse. These are in great demand for some reason. Can anyone guess what is on the reverse side?

Dealers like to get \$5-6.00 for common circulated British trade tokens. I try to buy them for \$4-5.00 although I will pay more for the right item. These tokens are really plentiful, affordable, and in collectable condition, too. They often turn up in bunches (small or even large hoards), so keep your eyes open!

In this article I have tried to translate some of my enthusiasm for tokens into print. The three collecting areas that I have covered are just a starting point. For those who prefer to collect American material there are Civil War tokens in abundance plus Hard Times tokens, Virginia tokens, mining tokens, and that old standby, transportation tokens. Also, there are lots of additional foreign tokens: French, plantation, leper colony, Australian and so on. There is truly something for everyone and every taste. Good Hunting.!



SHOW CALENDAR



Mar. 18-19	Lexington, NC National Guard Armory	Eagle Coin Club
Apr. 6-8	New Carrollton, MD Howard Johnson Motel	D.C. Tri-Club Show
Apr. 21-23	Spartanburg, SC National Guard Armory	Spartanburg Coin Club
May 6-7	Winston-Salem, NC Sprague St. Rec. Center	Winston-Salem Coin Club
May 20-21	Raleigh, NC Mission Valley Inn	Raleigh Coin Club
Sept. 8-10	McLean, VA Westpark Hotel	VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Oct. 27-29	Greenville, SC Hyatt Regency	South Carolina Numismatic Association

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Between April 15th and May 15th, nominations for the following VNA offices will be received for the 1989-1991 term: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and five (5) members of the Board of Directors. Candidates must be members in good standing.

Nominations should be sent to:

Stephen R. Bennett, III, Chairman, VNA Elections Committee
121 Holly Berry Lane, Prince George, VA 23875

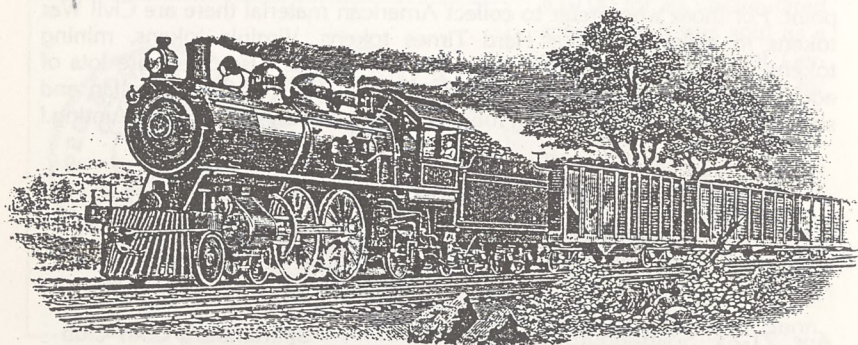
Nominations must be received no later than June 1, 1989.

M.A.N.A. SOUVENIR CARDS

The special intaglio printed souvenir card sets produced for the Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association's 36th Annual Convention are still available. The 6x8 inch cards feature four beautifully engraved steel plate locomotive vignettes from the archives of the United States Banknote Company.

Only 2000 of the four card sets have been printed. They are available for \$12.00 per set postpaid. M.A.N.A. member clubs placing multiple orders for their members can deduct \$2.00 per set.

To order, send a check or money order, made payable to W.P.P.U., to: WASHINGTON PLATE PRINTERS, P.O. Box 3817, Silver Spring, MD 20901. For further information call Mike Bean at (202) 447-1395.



Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association, Inc.

OCTOBER 14 - 16, 1988



WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

A CASE FOR THE C.S.S. ALABAMA

By Guy R. Swanson

Two very rare Confederate bonds, Criswell numbers 166 and 167 share the identical vignette of a "steam auxiliary sailing vessel" that has had an uncertain identity for many years. However, study of the vignette and period photographic evidence reveals that the unknown vessel is, beyond any reasonable doubt, the famous raider C.S.S. *Alabama*.

The bonds, in denominations of \$500 and \$1000, were lithographed and engraved by Evans and Cogswell of Columbia, South Carolina. The act of 14 June 1864 specified a 4% return, and a 1 July 1884 redemption date for both. Two thousand of each denomination were issued, but both are very rare. The Cr.166 \$500 bonds appear in the market once in a while, but this is not true of the \$1000 ones. Dr. Douglas Ball reports that all known specimens of the Cr.167 \$1000 bonds are held in the archives of the State of South Carolina.

The *Alabama* was constructed by the Laird Shipyard of Liverpool, England, and launched on 15 May 1862. Under the command of Captain Raphael Semmes she cruised the oceans of the world for the next twenty one months, traveling more than 75,000 miles, and taking sixty four prizes, whose total value exceeded \$6.5 million. In need of repairs, the *Alabama* was in port at Cherbourg, France on 11 June 1864, and from there was to return to Confederate waters. When the U.S.S. *Kearsarge* appeared off Cherbourg, Captain Semmes elected to go out and fight. The battle took place on 19 June 1864, just five days after the legislation for the bonds was passed, and, after an epic struggle the *Alabama* succumbed to her opponent's superior speed and fire power. The *Kearsarge*, in addi-

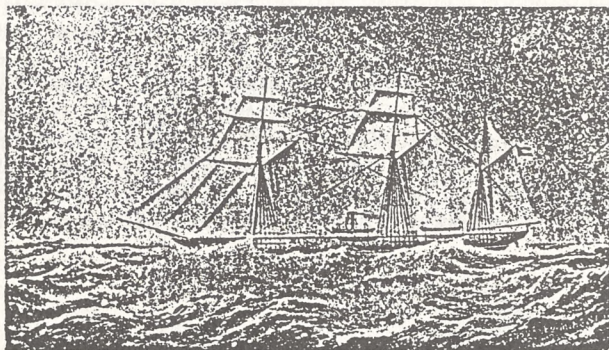


The Alabama Vignette

tion to sinking the raider, made prisoners of sixty three of her crew. Captain Semmes, fourteen of his officers and twenty four of the crew were rescued by the English yacht *Deerhound* and taken to England.

Also in 1864, either as a tribute to the *Alabama*'s successes, or as a memorial to her loss, the Premium Photographic Gallery, 170 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina, using a painting or drawing of the vessel as their subject, issued a *carte de visite* (a small pocket photograph) entitled "The *Alabama* in Chase". The gallery's principal artist, R. Wearn, and photographer, M. Heslop, secured a Confederate copyright for their image in the District Clerk's Office for South Carolina the same year.

The image on the *carte* shows the *Alabama* under full sail, and flying the Confederacy's first national flag (the Stars and Bars), while pursuing another vessel. Waves are shown breaking on her bow and along her side, just below the second boat.



THE ALABAMA IN CHASE.

Copyright secured in the District Clerk's Office for S. C., 1864.

NEGATIVE BY M. HESLOP.

The Carte de Visite

The image on the bond is the reverse of that on the *carte*, but the hull shape and sail configuration are identical, and the waves are shown breaking in the same places. The minor adjustments are in the flag's design, changed to a second national pattern, and the addition of another vessel shown in the distance to the left. Using a *carte* from the Premium Photographic Gallery as a model, a skilled engraver at Evans and Cogswell could have made the changes easily.

Mr. Swanson is the Curator of Manuscripts of the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia; the images are courtesy of the Museum's Eleanor S. Brockenbrough Library.

NEWS OF OUR CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB

The ACC meets at 8:00 PM on the third Wednesday of each month at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA.

BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB

The BRCC meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Robert Smith Music Studio, (upstairs), 105 North 1st St., in Charlottesville.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB

The TCC meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at the Lake Wright Motor Hotel on Northampton Blvd., Va. Beach

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The January meeting of the WNS featured a program on Odd and Curious Monies. The following new officers were installed: President John Fuller; 1st Vice Pres. Dave Gotkin; 2nd Vice Pres. Norman Brand; Secty. Richard Foley; Treas. Jim Deshong and Sgt.-at-Arms Sam Butland.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB

At its January meeting the RCC heard a talk on VNA by Greg Tucker, and then held its quarterly auction sale. The RCC meets at 7:30 PM the first Tuesday of each month at the Signet Bank Bldg., 7 North 8th St. in Richmond. There is a free parking lot on 8th St. opposite bank entrance.

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The SVNA meets at 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month in the community room at Cavalier Square Shopping Center in Hopewell.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB

The VPCC has elected the following new officers for 1989: Pres. Norman Strock, VP Scott Thomas, Sec.-Treas. Emmett Alley, Sgt.-at-Arms Gregory Simms. Regular meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of each month at the War Memorial Museum in Newport News.

THE ANCIENT NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

This club of classical numismatists, founded in the early '60's, rotates its meetings among the homes of members. For information on membership write to: W.E. McGovern, P.O. Box 2495, Gaithersburg, MD 20879.

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following individuals have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association and will become members within 20 days from the mailing of this notice unless some adverse reaction is received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant

Sponsor

Limon E. Fortner, Jr., Richmond, Virginia	Jim Ruehrmund
John W. Sanderson, Richmond, Virginia	Jim Ruehrmund
Forrest E. White, Knoxville, Tennessee	Keith Littlefield

NATIONAL COIN WEEK, 1989

National Coin Week, 1989, will be observed from 16 to 22 April; this year's theme is "Money Matters". NCW, sponsored annually by the American Numismatic Association to publicize the pleasures of coin collecting, offers a great opportunity for clubs and individuals to share our hobby with the public. Traditional activities include placing exhibits in malls, banks and libraries; presenting talks to school and civic groups; and manning information booths at coin shows and malls. Recognizing that these activities require much time and effort, ANA offers several forms of acknowledgment. ANA members who promote Coin Week by speaking, exhibiting, writing articles, or recruiting new ANA members, will receive a dated NCW participation medal. Participating non-members, institutions and businesses can receive certificates of appreciation.

ANA has prepared NCW promotional packets which will be sent free of charge to any individual or club requesting them. The packets contain guidelines, ANA literature, reporting forms, posters and booster buttons.

Orders for NCW promotional packets should be directed to: NATIONAL COIN WEEK, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279.

THE WALT MASON NUMISMATIC AWARD

This award, established to perpetuate the spirit and memory of our late friend, Walt Mason, Jr., will be presented for the first time at this year's VNA Convention in September. Selection for the award will be based on lifetime numismatic achievement, rather than on any single accomplishment or publication. Award criteria include: voluntary long term commitment to the encouragement of new collectors; personal educational pursuits including speaking, writing articles, and exhibiting; long term active participation in numismatic organizations; zeal to assist collectors in their specialties and various intangibles, such as personality, etc. Nominees must be from the area in which Walt was most active: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia and the Carolinas. Nominations may be submitted by individuals or by state, local and regional numismatic associations, and must be received by 1 May 1989. Nominations should be sent to:

The Walt Mason Fund, P.O. Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152

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1989 V.N.A. AUCTION

AT THE VNA SHOW, SEPTEMBER 9, 1981
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McLEAN, VIRGINIA

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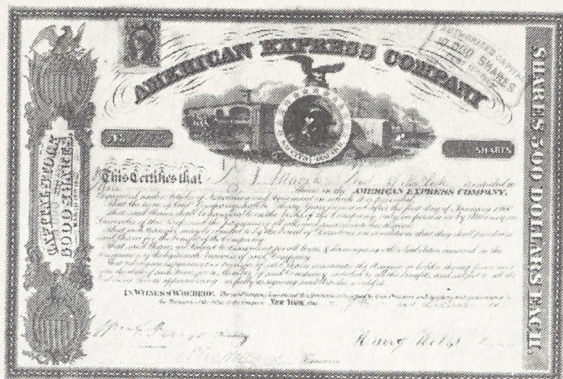
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VOLUME 25
NUMBER 3
1989

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The deadline for all copy is the first of the month preceding month of issue (e.g., April 1st for May 10th issue).

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 3
MAY 1989

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST is the Official Publication of The Virginia Numismatic Association, Inc. and is published six times each year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. All six issues are mailed from Hampton, Virginia at the Third Class Postal Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure and send us your change of address.

All mail relating to The Virginia Numismatist and Advertising therein should be directed to Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, Va. 23220.

Direct all other correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to the secretary-treasurer, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



The VNA Board members met on March 11th at the Red Carpet Inn, Waynesboro, Va. as guests of the Shenandoah Valley Coin Club. The SVCC Coin Show was a lively two day affair.

Combine beautiful weather, friends, a coin show and the Blue Ridge Mountains in the background and we had a perfect setting for our first Spring Fling. That was a most enjoyable experience. It was amusing to walk into the Hospitality Room and see the paper money collectors in deep discussion on one side of the room and token collectors on the other. I must confess to being a part of the latter group. We had a good time showing our latest purchase and trading. Jim Beard and Bob New did a fantastic job in organizing this affair for us — many thanks gentlemen. It was a fun way to welcome Spring.

This is election year for VNA officers and there is still time to send in you nomination. The offices to be filled are President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and five Board of Directors.

Plans for our 31st Convention and Coin Show in McLean, Va. on September 8-9-10th are progressing nicely. Table sales are brisk and we expect to have something for everyone regardless of collecting interest. Special room rates at the Westpark Hotel are available to VNA members and guests and is an ideal way to have a mini vacation. Hope to see you there.

Happy Collecting
Ginnie Aldridge
President

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1989 DUES?

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WOODEN NICKELS from '86, '87 & '88 VNA conventions are still available. Price 50¢ each plus SASE. Order from:
VNA, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23823

FOR SALE: Virginia Depression Scrip, West Virginia Pulp & Paper Co. \$10 and \$20 dated Mar. 10, 1933. \$8.00 each or both for \$15.00 — or will trade for Virginia tokens of equal value.
RAY HAYMAKER, RT. 1, BOX 284, CLIFTON FORGE, VA 24422

WANTED: Obsolete currency from Winchester, Charlestown, Martinsburg, Front Royal, Woodstock and Northern Shenandoah Valley. Send description and price to:
DAVID POWERS, 548 W. BELLVIEW AVENUE, WINCHESTER, VA 22601
(703) 662-0824

WANTED: Hardcover book, *Colonial Coinage of Virginia* by E. Newman. ALAN ANTHONY, 592 ROCKBRIDGE DRIVE, LEESBURG, VA 22075

PAPER PLAY MONEY and other types of paper "Fun Money" wanted. This includes bills advertising coin shows. Will trade one-for-one for other bills, or buy. Quantities O.K.
ROBERT W. ROSS, III, P.O. BOX 765, WILMINGTON, DE 19899-0765

VIRGINIA BUSINESS DIRECTORIES, prior to 1930, wanted. Virginia tokens wanted for my personal collection.
ELVIN B. MILLER, P.O. BOX 366, TOPPING, VA 23169

TOP PRICES PAID FOR Private scrip — Merchant, Sheriff, Iron Furnaces, any scarce or rare Virginia County note, any Virginia National Bank note, large or small, west of Wytheville. Name your price.
GARLAND S. STEVENS, P.O. BOX 243, WYTHEVILLE, VA 24382 (703) 228-2553

WANTED FOR MY COLLECTIONS: Uncirculated Colonial and Continental Paper Money and 18th century American lottery tickets.
JAMES R. HOSLER, 80 S. MAIN ST., MANHEIM, PA 17545 (717) 665-2798

CHECKS FOR SALE: "Fun Assortments" 25 - 100, 20¢ each, 1880-1980, no rarities. Will trade. Satisfaction or refund. Ten free checks to new ASCC members for #10 SASE.
HERMAN BORAKER, P.O. BOX 204, ROCKY FORD, CO 81067

WANTED: "Puppy Dog Tags". Prefer Virginia, but collect all U.S.
GINNIE ALDRIDGE, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

WANTED: Yorktown, Va. Medals, Tokens, Exonumia, Notes, ets. Send description, date and asking price.

C. FRANKLIN MOORE, 160 WINDING WAY, LANCASTER, PA 17602

WANTED: MILK BOTTLE CAPS from Virginia. Also, I still need an ad from each of you for the next issue of THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST. PAGE MANN, P.O. BOX 1684, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23187-1684

WANTED: Medals and medaletts of New Zealand.

ROBERT NEW, P.O. BOX 1124, ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC 27870

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- Ads must be typed or printed.
- Only one ad per person per issue can be accepted.

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following individuals have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, and will become members within 20 days from the mailing of this notice unless some adverse reaction is received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant

Sponsor

R. Daniel Booton, Richmond, Virginia	Jim Ruehrmund
Franklyn R. "Frank" Hatch, Doswell, Virginia	Jim Ruehrmund
Robert A. Walter, Richmond, Virginia	Jim Ruehrmund

1989 VNA CONVENTION PROGRAM

The sale of ads in the convention program provides VNA with funds to help with the cost of presenting the convention and coin show. All of our individual members, member clubs and friends are invited to support VNA by taking ads in this year's program. The cost is:

Full Page, \$25.00

½ Page, \$15.00

¼ Page, \$7.50

Also, you can be listed in the program as a patron for the sum of \$2.00. The deadline is August 1, but don't wait until the last minute. Send your ad, plus a check payable to the Virginia Numismatic Association to:

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

712 Westover Road
Richmond, VA 23220

CONDOLENCES

It is sad to report that in the past several months, a number of VNA families have suffered bereavement. The Virginia Numismatic Association extends deepest sympathy to each of the following:

- The Bennett family on the death of Steve's mother, Mrs. Sunshine D. Bennett of San Pablo, California, on January 25, 1989.
- Ben Duncan and his family on the death of Ben's mother, Mrs. Hannah H. Duncan of Richmond, Virginia, on February 24, 1989.
- The Hannah family on the death of Frank's brother, Thomas E. Hannah, in February, 1989.
- Bill Heywood and his family on the death of Bill's wife, Mrs. Janie Heywood of Suffolk, Virginia, February 14, 1989.

VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 1989 CONVENTION & AUCTION SALE

The 1989 VNA Convention and coin show will be held Sept. 8, 9, & 10 at the Tysons Westpark Hotel, McLean, VA. For information on tables contact Bourse Chairman Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, VA 22003; tel. (703) 354-9544.

The auction sale will be held at 4:00 PM, Saturday, September 9, 1989. Mr. Kirtley, the auctioneer, is soliciting consignments of better grade tokens, medals, U.S. and foreign coins and paper money. To consign material, or obtain further information, contact Mr. Charles E. Kirtley, P.O. Box 2273, Elizabeth City, NC 27906; tel. (800) 525-3048. (See ad on page 12)

BLUE RIDGE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION & COIN SHOW

The BRNA will hold its 30th annual convention and show Nov. 3-5, 1989 at the Quality Inn, East Ridge, Exit 1, I-75, Chattanooga, TN. For information on tables contact Ruth Armstrong, P.O. Box 80052, Chattanooga, TN; 37411; tel. (404) 861-9039.

ROANOKE COIN CLUB SHOW

The RCC will hold its annual coin show at the Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, VA, July 22-23, 1989. For information on tables contact Dr. T. Allen Kirk, Jr., 5832 Kirk Lane, Roanoke, VA 24018; tel. (703) 774-1291.

SOUTH CAROLINA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The SCNA will hold its 17th annual convention and coin show Oct. 27-29, 1989, at the Hyatt Regency, 220 North Main St., Greenville, SC. Bourse Chairman is: Mr. Johnny T. King, P.O. Box "0", Anderson, SC 29622; tel. (803) 226-3048.

PRIMITIVE MONEY IN WEST AFRICA, 1843

During the first half of the Nineteenth Century both this country and Great Britain stationed warships off the west coast of Africa for the suppression of the slave trade. In 1843-44 the US ships assigned to this duty were the sloop-of-war, USS Saratoga, 20 guns, and the brig USS Dolphin with 10 guns. Port visits to replenish supplies and fresh water must have been fairly frequent, and during these visits it was the ship's pursers (or supply officers, to use the modern term) who had to purchase supplies in the local economy, and deal with the problems of local currencies.

Saratoga's purser was Horatio Bridge, a young gentleman from Maine, who kept a journal of the cruise. Published in 1853 under the title *Journal of an African Cruiser*, it contains a number of interesting observations on the local currencies which Mr. Bridge encountered in the course of his supply duties, and which are excerpted here.

Horatio Bridge was a career naval officer. His initial appointment as purser was in 1838, and he retired from active duty in 1868. During the Civil War he served as Chief of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing. As you will note from his journal excerpts, he was a very observant fellow. He was also a collector, for he brought home specimens of the primitive currencies he encountered, and later presented them to the Smithsonian Institution.

West African Currency in General:

"Coin is almost unknown in the traffic of the coast, and it is only those who have been at Sierra Leone, or some of the colonial settlements, who are aware of its value. One "cut money", or quarter of a dollar, is the smallest coin of which most of the natives have any idea, ... but a head of tobacco or a couple of fish hooks would be preferred. Empty bottles find a ready market ..."

Currency in Liberia:

"I have procured some of the country-money. It is more curious than convenient. The "Manilly", worth a dollar and a half, would be a fearful currency to make large payments in, being composed of old brass kettles, melted up and cast in a sand mold. The weight is from two to four pounds; so that the circulation of this country may be said to rest on a pretty solid metallic basis. The "Buyapart", valued at twenty five cents, is a piece of cloth four inches square, covered thickly over with the small shells called cowries, sewed on. The other currency consists principally in such goods as have an established value. Brass kettles, cotton handkerchiefs, tobacco, guns, and kegs of powder are legal tender."

Currency in the Port of Axim, Gold Coast (Today the Republic of Ghana):

"The currency here is gold-dust, which passes from hand to hand as freely as coin bearing the impress of a monarch or a republic. The governor's weights for gold are small beans; a brown one being equivalent to a dollar, and a red one to fifty cents."

Currency on the Island of Sao Thome, in the Gulf of Guinea:

"The currency of the island is wretched. Coppers are the sole coin in use in all domestic transactions, and pass at ten times their intrinsic value. They are said to be introduced mainly by the American merchantmen, who do most of the trade with the island."

Currency at Freetown, Sierra Leone:

"The currency here differs from that of all the other settlements on the coast, except those belonging to Great Britain. The Spanish and South American doubloons are valued at only sixty four shillings sterling each, or fifteen dollars and thirty-six cents; while they are worth elsewhere, sixteen dollars. Spanish and South American dollars pass at about one percent discount. The English sovereign is reckoned at four dollars and eighty cents; and the French five-franc piece at ninety-two cents. The gold and silver coin of the United States is not current at Sierra Leone. Bills on London, at thirty days sight, are worth from par to five percent premium, and may actually be sold in small sums (say 100 to 2000 pounds) at fair rates."

Acknowledgement:

Many thanks to Len Harsel for providing this article.

V.M.I. SESQUICENTENNIAL SILVER MEDAL

The Virginia Military Institute Sesquicentennial Medals in sterling silver are now on sale. Struck from the same dies as the bronze version, which was described in our July, '88 issue, the medals are 3 inches in diameter and weigh about 8.5 troy ounces. Only 1000 serially numbered pieces will be issued, after which the dies will be destroyed. For full information, including price, see the ad on page 13. Collectors who plan to purchase medals are advised to get their orders in promptly, for the well known loyalty of V.M.I. alumni to their school will almost certainly ensure an early sellout.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Between April 15th and May 15th, nominations for the following VNA offices will be received for the 1989-1991 term: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and five (5) members of the Board of Directors. Candidates must be members in good standing.

Nominations should be sent to:

Stephen R. Bennett, III, Chairman, VNA Elections Committee
121 Holly Berry Lane, Prince George, VA 23875

Nominations must be received no later than June 1, 1989.

THE NUMISMATIC SLEUTH

By James M. Harvey, Jr., *Numismasleuth*

I read from time to time someone's theory on why people collect things: coins, antiques, baseball cards, etc. One person surmised that it is a trait of the human species to collect and study objects of all sorts, and this often leads certain individuals to specialize on specific objects.

Here is a theory I can hang my hat on: I prefer to believe that I collect coins, tokens, scrip, and any number of related items, simply because it is in my genes, therefore I have no control over it. Psychologists write of the human need to belong to social groups, and this reinforces the first theory, in that, along with collecting, one also joins the various organizations associated with whatever it is one collects. After balancing the checkbook the other day, Mary pointed out that I belong to the ANA, VNA, RCC, ASCA, EAC and "Save the Whales". I promised to resign from "Save the Whales"; I only joined to get the limited edition medal.

Of all the above mentioned, I am most active in the Richmond Coin Club, (RCC), having served as Secretary for the past two years. The club was organized November 8, 1940. If my math is correct, and that is never a certainty, next year will mark its fiftieth anniversary. WE must start to plan a fitting celebration of this event; holding the 1990 VNA Show in Richmond, to begin a year of numismatic activities centered around the Richmond Coin Club, would be a good beginning.

The earliest records I have of the minutes of the RCC meetings start in 1945, and continue to the present time. Hopefully, I will be able to locate some of the early minutes, or failing that, someone will read this and write or phone with information on the history of the club in those early days.

I am in the process of removing the minutes from manila folders, and placing them in protective sheets. This is slow work, as I find it necessary to read each page before considering the task complete. Each page contains wondrous stuff! I read with delight descriptions of the many collections that were displayed, the auctions and prices realized, the lectures, the coin show flyers, the newspaper articles, the certificates and promotional material from ANA, VNA and MANA; lists of the past presidents, officers, charter members, life members and guests; as well as actions taken against and on behalf of RCC members.

The minutes of 1950 contain the most controversial material of the club's history. A letter written by club member, Mr. H.H. Shank, January 11, 1950 described a 1799 large cent, in fine condition, that he had purchased from the Royal Sale of March 23, 1948, conducted by B. Max Mehl. Mr. Mehl had listed the coin as the perfect date variety, unscratched and unblemished, valued at \$267.00.

Mr. Shank noted his "slight disappointment" in finding several scratches upon initial inspection of the coin. His successful bid was \$159.50, and this, the rarity of the coin, and his confidence in the cataloguer, repressed his complaint at that time. The coin was exhibited at the May 1948 meeting of the RCC, and, according to Mr. Shank, several members commented on the scratches.

Almost two years went by, and after purchasing Dr. William H. Sheldon's book, *Early American Cents*, Mr. Shank tried to attribute his 1799 cent. He became suspicious when he failed in this endeavor, and

submitted the coin to Mr. E.M. Seneca, Jr., a large cent specialist and RCC member. Mr. Seneca expressed the opinion that the coin was a fake, and recommended that it be sent to Mr. Homer Downing. Mr. Downing, "a well known authority in this field", stated the coin was, indeed, an altered date. Mr. Shank then wrote to Mr. Mehl with this information, seeking restitution. Mr. Mehl replied that this coin "was not the one sold at the Royal Sale".

Who is to blame for this situation? After all, two years had gone by since the sale of the coin, but the February 1950 RCC minutes contain a resolution in support of Mr. H.H. Shank, urging Mr. Mehl to make restitution despite the long period of time since the purchase of the coin.

I have not determined if Mr. Mehl answered the letter, and several other items remain a mystery in this incident. What "Royal Sale" are we dealing with? Is there any further information available on Mr. Seneca and Mr. Downing? The solution to these and other puzzles will be resolved in future articles.

If you have any information or comments, write to me at P.O. Box 36167, Richmond, VA, or phone the NUMISMYSTERY HOTLINE (804) 320-5632.

"There is more adventure and mystery in the minutes of the Richmond Coin Club than in three years of your "whodunits"", I said to Mary, who by now was engrossed in an Agatha Christie novel. Looking over the open book, Mary commented, "You are a little too irregular for Baker Street, Sherlock!"

I wonder what she meant by that?

ELDRIDGE G. JONES **1912 - 1989**

We have just received the sad news of the sudden death on 26 March of Mr. Eldridge G. Jones of Hyattsville, Md. Eldridge, the immediate past president of MANA, VNA member No. 5, and former VNA board member, was a distinguished numismatist and warm friend. VNA extends deepest sympathy to his family. A full obituary will appear in the next issue.

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By Colin R. Bruce, II

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NEWS OF OUR CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB

The ACC meets at 8:00 PM on the third Wednesday of each month at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, Va.

BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB

The BRCC meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Robert Smith Music Studio, (upstairs), 105 North 1st St., in Charlottesville. For information write to Pres. Larry Engle, P.O. Box 553, Charlottesville, VA 22902, or call him at (804) 979-9172.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB

The TCC meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at the Lake Wright Motor Hotel on Northampton Blvd., Va. Beach.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The WNS has a new meeting place, the Guy Mason Recreation Center at 3600 Calvert St., N.W., Washington, D.C. (near the U.S. Naval Observatory). WNS meets on the third Tuesday of each month, except July & August. Their March meeting featured a talk by Julian Liedman on "The Numismatic Situation as it Exists in 1989".

RICHMOND COIN CLUB

At its April meeting the RCC held its quarterly auction sale, and a number of interesting items found new homes. The RCC meets at 7:30 PM the first Tuesday of each month at the Signet Bank Bldg., 7 North 8th St. in Richmond. There is a free parking lot on 8th St. opposite bank entrance.

ROANOKE COIN CLUB

The RCC meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Roanoke City Library on Jefferson St. RCC will hold its annual coin show at Hotel Roanoke, July 22-23 (see announcement on p. 5).

SHENANDOAH VALLEN COIN CLUB

The SVCC meets on the second Monday of each month at the Mary Switzer Building, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, Va., at 7:30 PM. The club held its annual coin show March 11 & 12 at the Red Carpet Inn in Waynesboro; it was a thoroughly enjoyable affair.

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The SVNA meets at 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month in the community room at Cavalier Square Shopping Center in Hopewell.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB

The VPCC held its annual banquet on Feb. 20, and installed the following new officers: Pres. Norman Strock, VP Scott Thomas, Sec.-Treas. Emmett Alley, Sgt. at Arms Gregory Simms. After dinner Jim Ruehrmund delivered a talk on "Money in Civil War Richmond". Regular meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the third Monday of each month at the War Memorial Museum in Newport News.

THE ANCIENT NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

The ANSW held its annual business meeting in March. Monthly meetings are held in the homes of members. For information, write to: W.E. McGovern, P.O. Box 2495, Gaithersburg, MD 20879.

SHOW CALENDAR

May 20-21	Raleigh, NC Mission Valley Inn	Raleigh Coin Club
June 9-11	Charlotte, NC Merchandise Mart	Carolina Coin & Stamp Shows
July 22-23	Roanoke, VA Hotel Roanoke	Roanoke Coin Club
Sept. 8-10	McLean, VA Westpark Hotel	VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Oct. 27-29	Greenville, SC Hyatt Regency	South Carolina Numismatic Association

CAN A COLLECTION BE BUILT UP OF ANIMALS ON COINS?

By Gerald Perry

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Many species of animals appear on the United States commemorative half dollars, but possibly these should be by-passed, since these coins are quite expensive, but the U.S. series does offer the buffalo nickel.

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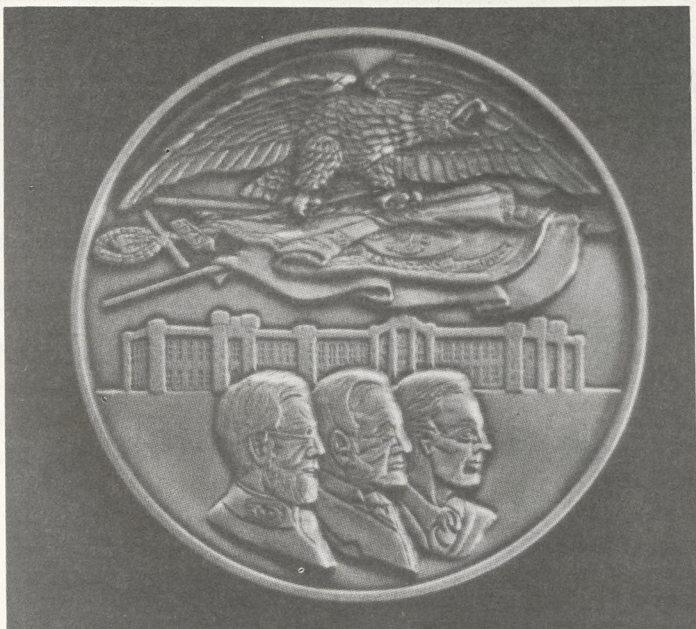
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The Silver Sesquicentennial Medal is being marketed through The VMI Alumni Association by sculptor R. Daniel Booton '73. It is being struck by the Roger Williams Mint of Attleboro, Massachusetts and contains approximately 8 1/2 troy ounces (264 grams) of sterling silver. It will be issued in a strictly limited edition of 1,000 pieces. Each medallion will be individually numbered from 0001 to 1000 and rim stamped with the number and the STERLING stamp.

The medals will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Orders will be registered and acknowledged with a numbered and dated certificate as they are received.

The price is \$200 per medal plus \$5.00 per medal for shipping and handling. Virginia residents must include 4 1/2% (\$9.00) sales tax. The total of \$214.00 per medal for Virginia residents and \$205.00 per medal for out-of-state residents must be prepaid. No medals will be reserved without full payment.

The medals are protected by airtight holders and packaged in custom presentation boxes bearing in silver the VMI Sesquicentennial Seal. The sale will close on September 11, 1989. Delivery is guaranteed by November 11, 1989, the Sesquicentennial date.

This is a one-time offer. After the medals are delivered, the Sesquicentennial dies will be destroyed and no more medals will be produced. To order, send a check or money order, along with your name and address, to:

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numismatic news FEATURING COIN MARKET

VOL. 38 NO. 12 March 21, 1989 • IOLA, WISCONSIN 54900

Bebbes donate 1913 Liberty nickel to ANA

The new most famous American coin collector, the late Mrs. Bebbes, has donated a pair of 1913 Liberty nickel coins to the American Numismatic Association.

The coins were donated to the ANA by Mrs. Bebbes, who was a member of the organization for many years.



The coins were donated to the ANA by Mrs. Bebbes, who was a member of the organization for many years.

U.S. gold production heading for record

The U.S. gold production is expected to reach a record level this year, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

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The production is expected to reach a record level this year, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Brady officially confirms designs

The U.S. Mint has officially confirmed the designs for the new quarter dollar coin, which will be introduced in 1992.

The designs for the new quarter dollar coin have been confirmed by the U.S. Mint.

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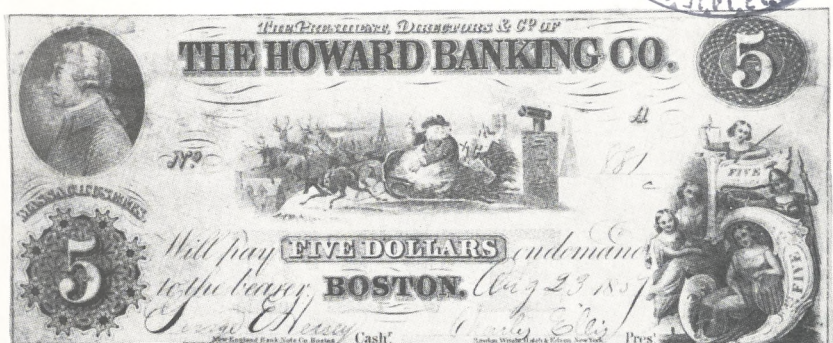


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The Virginia Numismatic Association has on file the names and addresses of all Advertisers. Any complaints or requests for information regarding advertisers should be referred to The Virginia Numismatic Association at 712 Westover Road, Richmond, Virginia 23220. The right to edit copy, to require payment in advance, and to decline any advertisement is specifically reserved.

ADVERTISING COPY DEADLINES

The deadline for all copy is the first of the month preceding month of issue (e.g., April 1st for May 10th issue).

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 4
JULY 1989

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST is the Official Publication of The Virginia Numismatic Association, Inc. and is published six times each year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. All six issues are mailed from Hampton, Virginia at the Third Class Postal Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure and send us your change of address.

All mail relating to The Virginia Numismatist and Advertising therein should be directed to Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, Va. 23220.

Direct all other correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to the secretary-treasurer, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



In a few short weeks we will be meeting in McLean, Virginia at the Westpark Hotel for our annual convention and coin show. I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new members for the first time.

The Convention this year will also give us the opportunity to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the formation of The Virginia Numismatic Association. For the occasion an attractive wooden nickel has been designed and each registrant will receive one.

The room rates at the Westpark are very reasonable and I encourage the membership to make early reservations for September 8-9-10. This is a great chance to get away for two or three days and relax. Besides the obvious reason for being there — to leisurely inspect the dealer's offerings, there is the opportunity to socialize and meet others with similar interests.

On Saturday night we have our banquet with a full program. The nationally renowned Dr. Nelson Page Aspen is scheduled as guest speaker on Legal Tender—"Small Size-Red Seals". After the banquet there is yet another event to go to. The Ragpickers meet the exchange tales, each taller than the last, share knowledge, tell of great finds and have fun in general. Can you afford to miss all this?

A Token and Medal Auction will be conducted by Charles E. Kirtley of Elizabeth City, North Carolina at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, September 9th. He will have extra auction catalogs at his table in the Bourse room for your convenience.

Make those plans and I will see you there.

Happy Collecting
Ginnie Aldridge
President

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1989 DUES?

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WOODEN NICKELS from '86, '87 & '88 VNA conventions are still available. Price 50¢ each plus SASE. Order from:
VNA, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

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RAY HAYMAKER, RT. 1, BOX 284, CLIFTON FORGE, VA 24422

WANTED: Obsolete currency from Winchester, Charlestown, Martinsburg, Front Royal, Woodstock and Northern Shenandoah Valley. Send description and price to:
DAVID POWERS, 548 W. BELLVIEW AVENUE, WINCHESTER, VA 22601
(703) 662-0824

WANTED: "Puppy Dog Tags". Prefer Virginia, but collect all U.S.
GINNIE ALDRIDGE, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

WANTED: Yorktown, Va. Medals, Tokens, Exonumia, Notes, etc. Send description, date and asking price to:
C. FRANKLIN MOORE, 160 WINDING WAY, LANCASTER, PA 17602

WANTED: Any and all information on the DAN RIVER QUEEN and The Circle M Animal Zoo. Located near Meadows of Dan, Va.
PAGE MANN, P.O. BOX 1684, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23187-1684

WANTED: Medals and Medaletts of New Zealand.
ROBERT NEW, P.O. BOX 1124, ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC 27870

FOR SALE: 50 years of the A.N.A. "THE NUMISMATIST". August 1938 through February 1989. Approximately 600 issues. Would prefer to sell as a set, \$575.00 cash or trade for coins.
JESSE MARTIN, 6119 BARDU AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22152 (702) 451-7738

WANTED: Expired credit cards (all types, paper, plastic) for historical collection. Pay \$1.00 each plus postage. Any Quantity. Send directly to:
GARY OLSEN, PRESIDENT, HOMESTEAD PROPERTIES, 505 SOUTH ROYAL AVENUE, FRONT ROYAL, VA 22630

LOOKING FOR: Tokens and medals with pictures of cows or cows head. Send description and price to:
BILL HEYWOOD, 5033 SHOULDER HILL ROAD, SUFFOLK, VA 23435-2242

WANTED: Leesburg, Va. Notes. Please send description and price to:
ALAN ANTHONY, 592 ROCKBRIDGE DRIVE, LEESBURG, VA 22075

WANTED: Cash-style coins, colonial, US military, South (Republic) and North (Communist), coins, paper money, tokens, stock certificates, bonds, receipts, and other financial paper of Viet Nam. Please write first:
HOWARD A. DANIEL, III, P.O. BOX 626, DUNN LORING, VA 22027-0626

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- Ads will be run for two issues, and may be renewed.
- Ads must be limited to 30 words, not including name, address, etc.
- Ads must be typed or printed.
- Only one ad per person per issue can be accepted.

The Money \$tore offers a convenient way for VNA members, including dealers, to buy and sell material, and it's free. Ads longer than 30 words can be accepted if they occupy no more than 3 lines at 70 spaces per line (not including address line). Two pages of each issue are reserved for this feature, first come first served. Copy must reach Page Mann by the first of the month in which the magazine goes to press.

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following individuals have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, and will become members within 20 days from the mailing of this notice unless some adverse reaction is received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant

James H. Adams Jr., Richmond, Virginia

Sponsor

Richard G. Doty, Washington, D.C.

George W. Eades, Newport News, Virginia

Jim Ruehrmund
Jim Ruehrmund
Mervyn Reynolds

HOW ABOUT THAT!

A while back Page Mann sent in a clipping from the **Williamsburg Gazette** about an interesting numismatic find by Mr. Norman Moore, who works at the Colonial Mobil Station. In a batch of \$1 bills obtained from a local bank, Mr. Moore found a crisp new note which lacked the Treasury seal, bank seal, serial numbers and bank numbers. Even in these days of less than perfect inspection at the Bureau of Engraving & Printing, that's quite a find, and it shows that good stuff can still be found in circulation. Mr. Moore has refused all offers for his note, which he has added to his growing collection.

VNA CONVENTION NEWS

VNA's 31st Annual Convention and Coin Show will be held in Northern Virginia again this year. The dates are Friday, September 8 through Sunday, September 10. The location, the same as last year, is the Tysons Westpark Hotel at 8401 Westpark Drive, McLean, Va. To get there from I-95, take I-495 (D.C. Beltway) west to Exit 10 West (Leesburg Pike / Rt. 7). Go 1.5 miles, and turn right before the 6th stoplight. The hotel has a red roof and a prominent sign.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

We will not send out a separate convention mailing. Your hotel reservation card is enclosed with this issue of **The Va. Numismatist**. Please send it in promptly, and be sure to indicate that you are coming to the VNA Convention. The room rates is \$49 per night, single or double.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the Virginia Numismatic Association will be held at the Tysons Westpark Hotel, McLean, Va. on Saturday, September 9, 1989. Certification of officer elections, plans for the 1990 convention and other items of business will be considered. All VNA members are welcome to attend.

BOURSE

The bourse will open to the public at 10 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 11 a.m. on Sunday. Admission is free. The dealers will be offering a wide selection of coins, paper money, tokens, medals, etc. There will be something for every taste and budget. Here's your chance to acquire those elusive items you've been searching for, so don't fail to visit all of the tables, and if you don't see what you are looking for, ask. Bring along your surplus material, for the dealers will also be buying.

No insurance will be carried on either bourse materials or on exhibits, but guard service will be maintained 24 hours a day in these two areas for the duration of the show.

AUCTION

Mr. Charles E. Kirtley of Elizabeth City, N.C. will conduct an auction sale of coins, paper money, tokens and medals at the Tysons Westpark Hotel from 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 9. For information on consigning material to the sale, write to Mr. Kirtley at P.O. Box 2273, Elizabeth City, NC 27907-2273, or call him at 1-800-525-3399.

EXHIBITS

Write to Chairman James M. Beard, 317 Miller St., Lexington, VA 24450 to reserve space for your exhibit, and to obtain exhibit forms. Mounting an exhibit takes a lot of effort, as those who have done it know well, but it is also a very satisfying experience. Sharing your collections interests with others is a vital part of our hobby, so why not give it a try.

As noted on the exhibit forms, VNA is unable to supply exhibit cases, and exhibitors are requested to bring their own.

No insurance will be carried on either exhibits or bourse materials, but guard service will be maintained 24 hours a day in these two areas for the duration of the show.

CONVENTION PROGRAM

The sale of advertising space in the convention program helps VNA with the show expenses, and we appeal to our members and friends to extend this support by taking an ad in this year's program. The cost is:

Full Page, \$25.00 ½ Page, \$15.00 ¼ Page, \$7.50

You can be listed in the program as a patron for the sum of \$2.00. Send your advertising copy and checks to: The Virginia Numismatic, 712 Westover Rd., Richmond, VA 23220, or call 1-804-358-0525.

ANNUAL BANQUET

The banquet will be held Saturday evening following a cash bar social hour. This is always an enjoyable occasion, when we can greet old friends and meet new ones. Following an excellent dinner (rest assured, the vegetables will be well cooked), the newly elected officers will be installed, awards will be presented, and we will be treated to an interesting talk by our featured speaker.

Don't forget to purchase your dinner tickets when you register for the convention, as the number of seats is limited.

OUR DINNER SPEAKER

Our banquet speaker this year is Dr. Nelson Page Aspen, a native of Philadelphia, Pa., who is a practicing orthopedic surgeon. His numismatic interests run to paper money, and he is the author of the book, **A History of Bermuda and its Paper Money**. He has also written numerous articles on coins and currency, and is a frequent speaker to numismatic groups. Dr. Aspen was a member of the United States Assay Commission in 1975, and is currently Chief Assayer (President) of the Old Time Assay Commissioner's Society. We look forward with pleasure to hearing his address, "Legal Tender - the Small Size Red Seals".

"RAG PICKERS" GET-TOGETHER

Saturday evening following the banquet the Rag Pickers will hold their annual discussion period. Time and location of the meeting will be announced at the convention. All who are interested in any way in the history and collecting of paper money are cordially invited to attend. Many of the big names in the field will be present, and this once a year event is one that should not be missed.

VNA PUBLICATIONS

VNA publications on paper money, tokens, etc. will be offered for sale at the registration desk. Here's your chance to obtain them without paying postage.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership applications will be available at the registration desk. New members who join at the convention are considered paid up through the end of 1990, so urge your non-member friends to join. Also, members can pay their 1990 dues at the registration desk, and save us the effort of sending you a statement.

COME & HAVE FUN

Come and bring your family, and urge your friends to come too. While the numismatists are at the show, the others can enjoy the marvelous array of shopping and cultural attractions which the area offers.

A TRIBUTE TO ELDRIDGE JONES

1912 - 1989



As reported in the last issue, Mr. Eldridge G. Jones of Hyattsville, Maryland, died on March 26, following a stroke. His services to our hobby over many years were manifold, and the numismatic fraternity will keenly feel the loss of this most amiable and conscientious gentleman. Eldridge was ANA member No. 13513, having joined the Association in 1947. He was ANA's Washington representative for years, served as ANA treasurer from 1963 to 1967, and subsequently served four terms as an ANA governor. In recognition of his services, the Association awarded him its Medal of Merit in 1980.

In 1952 he was one of the founders of the Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association, holding membership No. 3. He served MANA as both secretary and treasurer, and was its president from 1986 to 1988.

Eldridge joined VNA at its founding in 1958 as member No. 5. He later served on the VNA board, and was a familiar figure at our conventions.

A member of the Washington Numismatic Society since 1941, he held the offices of secretary and treasurer, and was president in 1947.

Eldridge Jones, that cheery gentleman in the bow tie, was indeed Mr. MANA. It was always a pleasure to stop and chat with him at shows; we are going to miss him, and we sincerely mourn his loss.

VNA extends warmest sympathy to his wife, Mildred, his daughter, Ruth Hempel, his son, Ronald E. Jones, and his two granddaughters.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, 1989

The Nominating Committee has reported the following slate of candidates for offices whose current terms expire in September, 1989:

For President Gregory E. Tucker, Petersburg, Virginia
 For 1st Vice President James M. Harvey, Jr., Richmond, Virginia
 For 2nd Vice President Richard B. Coltrane, Newport News, Virginia
 For Secretary-Treasurer Keith Littlefield, Annandale, Virginia

For Board of Directors (VOTE FOR FIVE)

Louis E. Doucet, Petersburg, Virginia
 Charles Hagaman, Arlington, Virginia
 Raymond G. Haymaker, Clifton Forge, Virginia
 W. Page Mann, Williamsburg, Virginia
 Malvern L. Powell, Jr., Newport News, Virginia

All members are urged to exercise their voting privilege. Your ballot is enclosed with this issue of the magazine. Please mark it and return it promptly to the Secretary, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, VA 22003.

NEWS OF OUR CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB

The ACC meets at 8:00 PM on the third Wednesday of each month at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, Va.

BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB

The BRCC meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Robert Smith Music Studio, (upstairs), 105 North 1st St., in Charlottesville. For information write to Pres. Larry Engle, P.O. Box 553, Charlottesville, VA 22902, or call him at (804) 979-9172.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB

The TCC meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at the Lake Wright Motor Hotel on Northampton Blvd., Va. Beach.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The WNS has a new meeting place, the Guy Mason Recreation Center at 3600 Calvert St., N.W., Washington, D.C. (near the U.S. Naval Observatory). WNS meets on the third Tuesday of each month, except July & August. At the April meeting Kermit Smyth presented a talk on "Coin Cleaning - Risky Business!".

RICHMOND COIN CLUB

The RCC meets at 7:30 PM the first Tuesday of each month at the Signet Bank Bldg., 7 North 8th St. in Richmond. At the June meeting, Joe Bush presented a talk on Byzantine coins, illustrated with slides. The RCC is planning to celebrate its 50th anniversary with a coin show to be held in May, 1990.

ROANOKE COIN CLUB

The RCC meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Roanoke City Library on Jefferson St. RCC will hold its annual coin show at Hotel Roanoke, July 22-23.

SHENANDOAH VALLEN COIN CLUB

The SVCC meets on the second Monday of each month at the Mary Switzer Building, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, Va., at 7:30 PM. The June meeting featured a program on Virginia tokens by Mr. Will Camp, Sr. of Clifton Forge, followed by an auction sale.

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The SVNA meets at 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month in the community room at Cavalier Square Shopping Center in Hopewell.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the third Monday of each month at the War Memorial Museum in Newport News.

THE ANCIENT NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

At its June meeting the ANSW heard a talk on fourres by Doug Smith. Monthly meetings are held in the homes of members. For information, write to: W.E. McGovern, P.O. Box 2495, Gaithersburg, MD, 20879.

SANTA CLAUS NOTES

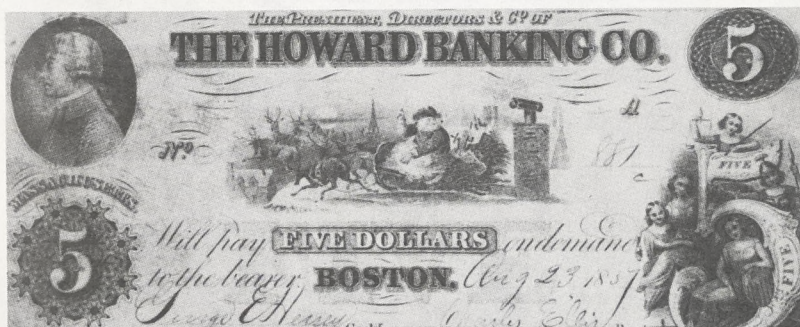
By Robert W. Ross III
VNA LM 34

I started this listing over a year ago, and have continued to update it as I have discovered new information. I was in the process of doing an update when I read the "Season's Greetings" issue of **The Virginia Numismatist**, and saw Jim Ruehrmund's call for more articles. It occurred to me that some of those "Virginia Ragpickers", especially those who make a habit of hounding Paul Garland, might find such a listing to be of interest.

I originally began the list because there was so little printed information on the subject. This is just a provisional listing, as I anticipate that there are probably about another twelve notes that could be added to the series. Perhaps the set of books on obsolete notes by Jim Haxby (published by Krause Publications) will reveal some additional issues. I also know that Roger Durand plans to publish a book on the subject within the next several years. In the meantime, I know of no place else where this information is available.

My descriptions of some of the notes are somewhat sketchy, as I do not personally own them. In fact, few people do, as the most common notes are scarce, and the others are simply rare. The most common notes start at \$250.00 in the average condition found (good to very good). The top of the line, as far as I know it, is the red overprint \$20.00 proof on the Pittsfield Bank (listed at 14a below), which recently sold for \$4,000.00.

I developed my own system for this listing by subdividing the notes by vignette types, giving each vignette a name and letter designation. However, the individual notes are numbered consecutively from beginning to end. I welcome any additional information, listings or comments.



HOWARD BANKING CO. \$5

A. CENTER VIGNETTE: SANTA IN SLEIGH, LOOKING RIGHT

1. CENTRAL BANK OF TROY	\$3	Troy, N.Y.
2. CONWAY BANK	\$20	Conway, Mass.
3. HOWARD BANKING CO.	\$5	Boston, Mass.
4. MAIN BANK	\$2	Brunswick Me.

5. MECHANICS & MANUFACTURERS BANK	\$1	Providence, R.I.
6. SAINT NICHOLAS BANK	\$2	New York, N.Y.
7. SAINT NICHOLAS BANK	\$5	New York, N.Y.
8. SAINT NICHOLAS BANK	\$10	New York, N.Y.
9. BANK OF SING SING	\$2	Ossining, N.Y.
10. SPICKET FALLS BANK	\$100	Methuen, Mass.
11. WHITE MOUNTAIN BANK	\$2	Lancaster, N.H.

NOTES: A die proof of this vignette is known. This is the most commonly seen vignette. It features Santa in a sleigh loaded with toys, pulled by eight reindeer, arranged in rows of four abreast, flying over a snow-covered roof top. Santa is looking down and back to the right over his left shoulder, and has a smoking pipe in his mouth. There is a chimney just behind the sleigh.

While it is believed that most of the Santa Claus notes are not genuine issues, there is good evidence that the Howard Banking Company note (illustrated on previous page) is genuine, as one example has turned up that has been redeemed, as a redemption stamp on its back confirms.

B. CENTER VIGNETTE: SANTA IN SLEIGH, LOOKING FRONT

12. CENTRAL BANK OF BROOKLYN (proof)	\$2	Brooklyn, N.Y.
13. CENTRAL BANK OF TROY (proof)	\$3	Troy, N.Y.
14. PITTSFIELD BANK	\$20	Pittsfield, Mass.
14a. Same, but red overprint proof note		
14b. Same, but full colored proof note (at least on die proof)		

NOTES: A die proof of this vignette exists as shown at 14b above. A full note of this may not exist. This vignette shows Santa in a sleigh pulled by reindeer. While Santa is facing right, his full face is shown, hence the "looking front" designation, and the smoking pipe in his mouth is more prominent. There is a chimney on this roof top as well.

The 14a \$20 note above was contained on a proof sheet composed as follows: \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, which is some evidence that this was a genuine issue. An accompanying proof sheet from the same series on the same bank contained similar notes as follows: \$1, \$1, \$2, \$5.

C. CENTER VIGNETTE: SANTA IN SLEIGH, LOOKING LEFT

* No banknotes are known with this vignette.



SAINT NICHOLAS BANK, \$1

NOTES: A die proof exists with this vignette. This vignette has Santa in a sleigh pulled by reindeer. Santa is looking left, and has a smoking pipe in his mouth. Instead of a chimney on the roof top as on the previous two vignettes, there is a snow covered pole.

D. RIGHT SIDE VIGNETTE: SANTA FILLING STOCKINGS

15. SAINT NICHOLAS BANK	\$1	New York, N.Y.
16. SAINT NICHOLAS BANK	\$3	New York, N.Y.
17. SAINT NICHOLAS BANK	\$20	New York, N.Y.
18. SAINT NICHOLAS BANK	\$50	New York, N.Y.

NOTES: A die proof of this note exists. This vignette features Santa (actually an elfin-like Saint Nicholas) filling three stockings (one on his left, and two on his right) hung by a fireplace. He has a sack of toys on his back located atop a flowing cape.

Each of these notes has the denomination overprinted in red in large letters in the bottom center of the note.



BANK OF MILWAUKEE, \$5

E. LEFT SIDE VIGNETTE: SANTA BY CHILDREN'S BED

19. BANK OF MILWAUKEE (Specimen)	\$5	Milwaukee, Wis.
----------------------------------	-----	-----------------

NOTES: A die proof of this vignette is known. This vignette features a kindly, older version of Santa, complete with knickers and buckled shoes. He has a bag of toys on his back, and a small doll in his left hand. He is looking left and down at two small children who are asleep in their bed. One child is lying atop the other's left shoulder. There is a chair beside the bed, and two long stockings are hung over the end of the bed. A black coal shovel is prominent in the foreground, and is leaning against a post on which Santa is resting his right hand. There may not be a regular issue of this note.

F. BACK VIGNETTE: SANTA ----

20. CHEROKEE IRON CO.	5¢	Cedartown, Ga.
-----------------------	----	----------------

NOTES: Santa is found on the back of this note, but I do not have a

description of the vignette. The note has a printed date of March 15, 1873. The front of this note is pictured on the cover of the book, **Album of Georgia Local Business Notes** by Dr. John A. Muscalus.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON TWO INTERESTING RELATED CHECKS:

1. There is a late 1800's check on the St. Nicholas National Bank of New York that has a different, and quite small, vignette on the lower left side, of Santa in a sleigh pulled by reindeer.

2. I have a small number of early Christmas checks, e.g. 1905 and 1917. However, the earliest such check with Santa on it that I have seen is dated December 6, 1920. It is a Christmas Savings Club check on the Hamilton Savings Bank, Central Branch, 7th and Eye Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. It is made out in the amount of \$1.00.

A large vignette on the right side shows Santa in his classic red suit with a U.S. mailbag hanging by his right side, and a book entitled, **Bank Savings Book**, in his left hand. He is standing in front of a pleasant fire, and appears to be instructing a boy of about thirteen, in knickers, on the values of thrift. Also seated or standing around the fireplace are other obvious family members of father, mother and grandfather. All four family members are holding what are obviously Christmas Club checks.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Since most of the above information has been gathered verbally or through observation, and while realizing the risk of leaving someone out, I would like to acknowledge the following individuals who have helped with the listing: Tom Denley, Don Fisher, Keith Littlefield, Claud Murphy, Hugh Shull and John Wilson.

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- Muscalus, John A., Ph.D., **Saint Nicholas on Early State Bank Notes**, Historical Paper Money Research Institute, Bridgeport, Pa., ca. 1959
Muscalus, John A., Ph.D., **Album of Georgia Local Business Notes**, Historical Paper Money Research Institute, Bridgeport, Pa., ca. 1977

THE FALU

Just imagine! I've got this crude looking copper coin that's over 700 years old. I found it in a dealer's junk box, and the price of just one buck was a real steal. I think it must be an old Jewish coin, for it has a Star of David on one side. The other side has some strange squiggly writing that I can't read, and the date 1280; just what is it, anyway? Old as it is, it's just got to be valuable.

Well, don't get your hopes up too much; that coin is not nearly as old as you think it is. In the first place, it isn't Jewish at all, it happens to be a bronze falu of the Kingdom of Morocco, which used the six pointed star as a coin device until this century. It was made by casting, which accounts for its crude appearance, and the date, 1280, is simply the Moslem year equivalent to A.D. 1863. It is certainly curious, but by no means rare or valuable. My **Standard Catalog of World Coins**, which is a couple of years old, prices it at \$1.00 in VG, so you didn't exactly get a screaming bargain, but, on the other hand, you didn't get taken either.

A HANDBOOK OF PAPAL COINS

**By John C. Ryan, Washington, D.C., 1989
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Those who set out to form a collection of coins of the popes, have until now, found their efforts hampered by the lack of available literature. Reference works on the subject are difficult to obtain, and almost all of them are written in languages other than English. Mr. Ryan, a long-time collector and student of papal coins, has undertaken the task of supplying the deficiency, a task in which he has succeeded brilliantly.

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Mr. Ryan is now at work on Volume II, which will cover the period 1534-1634. A further volume is projected which will extend to 1992.

John is to be congratulated for producing a scholarly work which is also interesting to read. If you collect, or would like to collect, papal coins, or have an interest in them, you need a copy of this book. The price is \$25.00. It will be carried by a number of dealers, or you can obtain it direct from the author by writing to:

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A GUIDE BOOK OF MEXICAN COINS, 1822 TO DATE

**Fifth edition, 1989, by T.V. Buttery and Clyde Hubbard
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Cliff Mishler of Krause Publications thinks that this is the most complete and compact reference for Mexican coins for the past 166 years, and he's absolutely right. If you have any interest at all in this series, you are going to need a copy.

JULIUS BAUMGARTEN'S NOTE

By Jim Ruehrmund

Julius B. Baumgarten is known to students of Confederate Philately as the maker of the postmark and rating stamps (DUE 10, PAID 10, etc.) for the Confederate Post Office Department. What little they know about him is contained in **The Postal Service of the Confederate States of America**, published in 1929 by the late August Dietz. Mr. Dietz got his information from an article in the **New York Sun** in 1905 by a reporter who had interviewed Baumgarten at his home in Washington, D.C.

Here is the story. Baumgarten, an engraver, and former employee of the Prussian Mint, came to America sometime before 1861. When the Confederate Government was established at Montgomery, Alabama, he went there, and worked for it as a private contractor, making seals and marking stamps for the Post Office and other departments. When the government moved to Richmond in June, 1861, he moved with it, set up his business at No. 161 Main Street, and continued to supply the various departments with seals and stamps. Late in the war he was sent to Europe to procure machinery for a mint, and was stranded there by the collapse of the Confederacy. He later returned to this country, resumed his profession, and was still working at it in 1905.

By now you are probably wondering what all of this has to do with numismatics. The connection comes from a statement Baumgarten made in that 1905 interview. He said that, after coming to Richmond, "I set about preparing to make designs for stamps and money on wood plates. Eventually steel plates were obtained and beautiful specimens of the engraver's art were turned out, equaling the best work of the day". Mr. Dietz doubted that any of Baumgarten's designs were actually used, and noted that no government postage stamps or money were ever printed from wood plates. In this he was correct, but there is at least one piece of currency, a fractional banknote, signed by Baumgarten.

The illustrated 25¢ note of the Farmers Savings Bank of Richmond, dated Sept. 2, 1861, is apparently a woodcut. In the lower right corner it carries an imprint, which reads: DRAWN & ENGRAVED BY BAUMGARTEN. Evidently old Julius was not fibbing when he claimed to have designed money, but whether or not his product is a "beautiful specimen of the engraver's art, equaling the best work of the day" is a matter which I'll leave for you, the reader, to judge.



FARMERS SAVINGS BANK 25¢

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July 22-23	Roanoke, VA Hotel Roanoke	Roanoke Coin Club
Aug. 9-13	Pittsburgh, PA Vista International Hotel	AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Sept. 8-10	McLean, Va. Westpark Hotel	VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Sept. 28-Oct. 1	Fayetteville, NC Bordeau Motor Inn	North Carolina Numismatic Association
Oct. 20-22	New Carrollton, MD Howard Johnson Plaza	MIDDLE ATLANTIC NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Oct. 27-29	Greenville, SC Hyatt Regency	South Carolina Numismatic Association
Nov. 3-5	Chattanooga, TN Quality Inn, East Ridge	Blue Ridge Numismatic Association

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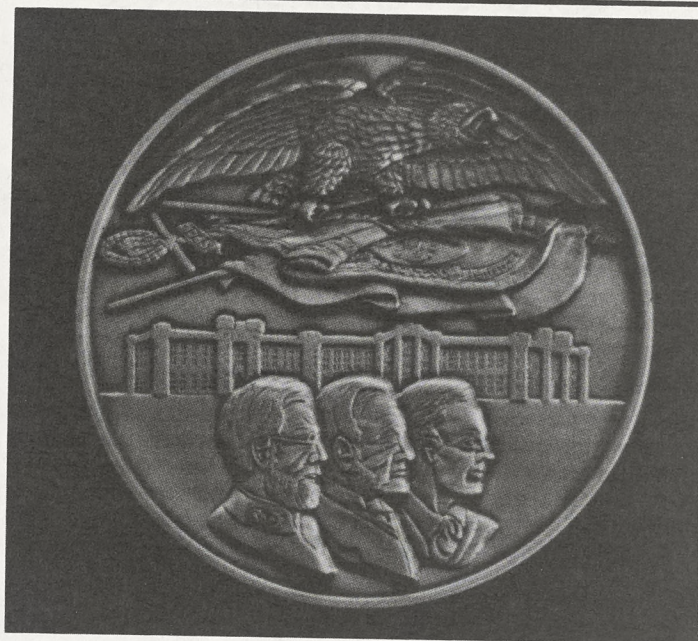
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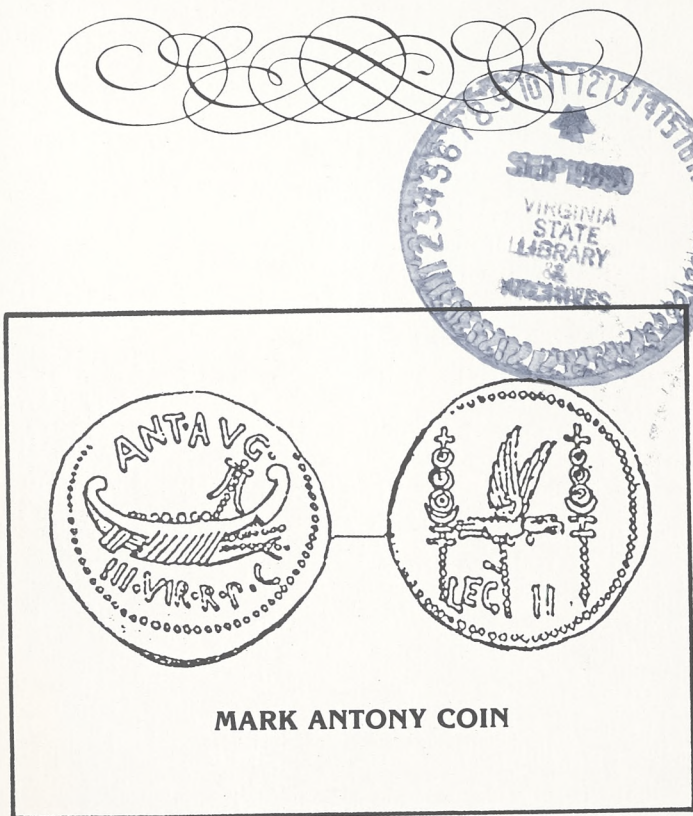
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VOLUME 25 NUMBER 5
SEPTEMBER 1989

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST is the Official Publication of The Virginia Numismatic Association, Inc. and is published six times each year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. All six issues are mailed from Hampton, Virginia at the Third Class Postal Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure and send us your change of address.

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Direct all other correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to the secretary-treasurer, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



We met on 22 July for our quarterly Board meeting in conjunction with the Roanoke Coin Club Coin Show at the Hotel Roanoke. Before our meeting I had a couple of hours to browse at the coin show and enjoyed it immensely. I bought several items to add to my collection including two Virginia encased coins. There was much activity on the floor and collectors were buying. Our hobby is alive and well.

Another coin show I had the pleasure of attending this summer was in Hershey, Pa. This one was sponsored by The Hershey Coin Club and the bourse was well attended. While there I bought their annual medal to keep my set up-to-date. The artwork is beautiful and each medal pays homage to Mr. Milton Hershey who did so much for Chocolate Town.

This is my last letter to the membership as President of VNA. It is time to say thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your President the past two years. My job was made so much easier because I had the good fortune to serve with such an outstanding group of elected and appointed officers and members of the Board.

Last, but certainly not least, I wish to express my appreciation to Numismatic News, Coin World, The Numismatist, Timber Lines and Bunyan's Chips for all the news coverage.

Happy Collecting
Ginnie Aldridge
President

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- Ads will be run for two issues, and may be renewed.
- Ads must be limited to 30 words, not including name, address, etc.
- Ads must be typed or printed.
- Only one ad per person per issue can be accepted.

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following individuals have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, and will become members within 20 days from the mailing of this notice unless some adverse reaction is received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant

Hampton B. Crawford, Tazewell, Virginia

Sponsor

R. Daniel Booton

AMULETS

The custom of carrying some special coin as an amulet, or charm, to avert the force of evil and bring good luck, is a very old one. Even today there are people who always carry their pocket piece, although few would be willing to admit being the least bit superstitious. Things were different in olden times, when nearly everyone believed in the amuletic power of coins, especially ones carrying Biblical texts.

In 1344, King Edward, III of England introduced a new gold coin, the Noble, valued at 6 shillings and 8 pence. Its reverse legend, from St. Luke, IV, 30, reads: IHC AVTEM PER MEDIVM ILLORVM IBAT, "But Jesus, passing through the midst of them, went His way", which fostered the belief that the coin could protect the bearer from robbers. Representing, as it did, about three months wages for an average laborer, the Noble was a charm reserved for the affluent. As is still the case, anyone carrying that much money would be a likely target, so most, no doubt, relied on their swords and armed retainers to supplement the power of the charm.

COMMUNION TOKENS OF THE UNITED STATES

By Autence A. Bason

A new reference book on United States of America communion tokens has been published, and is now ready for distribution. It is the first reference on this subject since Thomas Warner wrote a paper on his own collection in 1887, listing about 192 American communion tokens.

Research for the book was begun about 35 years ago by Reverend Paul B. Freeland, a Presbyterian Minister of Crowley, La. At about the same time Captain M.B. Orr of Mesa, Arizona, and W.W. Woodside of Pittsburgh, Pa., were collecting communion tokens, and doing research on them. These three men got together and decided that they would pool their information, and one of them would write the book. Freeland was selected for the task. Further information came from Oliver K. Rumbel of Austin, Texas, who made his vast collection available to them for research. I started working with them in the mid-sixties.

Circumstances changed all of these plans. Freeland became ill with a terminal illness. He died in 1976, but before his death he turned the material over to Capt. Orr to finish. In 1977 Capt. Orr became ill also, and in turn passed the research material over to me, with the idea that Woodside and I would finish the book, which was still entirely in the research stage. Capt. Orr died in March 1978, and Woodside died only six months later. Rumbel died in 1977, so you may well say that I "inherited" the responsibility for completing the book. I have been working on it for the past ten years.

William B. Miller, director of the Presbyterian Historical Association of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has supplied generous cooperation to me in the past years. We discussed the book situation, and decided that sufficient research had been done, and that the book should be prepared for publication.

The book lists and illustrates all known American communion tokens, a total of 436 pieces. They are listed alphabetically by states, with a description of each token, and information on where a specimen can be found. Included is a brief history of communion tokens, a chapter on old communion cards, and also an attribution aid. The 124 page, soft cover book has been printed in a limited edition of 500 copies. Books may be ordered by sending \$12.00 (\$10.00 plus \$2.00 P&H) to: Autence A. Bason, P.O. Box 21066, Greensboro, NC 27420-1066.

NO WALT MASON AWARD THIS YEAR

Sponsors of the Walt L. Mason, Jr. Numismatic Award have announced that the award, originally scheduled for presentation at the 1989 VNA convention, will not be presented this year.

The committee cited a lack of nominations; only a few were received by the May deadline. It was noted that publicity for the award was rather haphazard, and possibly did not reach as many persons as would have been desirable. Rather than present the award to someone who did not meet the published criteria, it was decided to forgo this year's award, and concentrate on future years.

The committee is reviewing suggestions that the award might be changed from one of personal recognition, knowing that few, if any, measure up to the criteria that reflect the activities and attitudes of Walt Mason. Among the alternatives suggested are sponsorship of a numismatic event, such as a speakers bureau, or numismatic seminars of "Walt Mason Scholars".

The Walt L. Mason, Jr. Award was established in 1988 to honor the memory of one of the most distinguished numismatists in the Middle Atlantic Area. Mason was active in the region for more than thirty years, won widespread affection and regard for his personal as well as numismatic qualities, and was known as a "collector's collector." Criteria for the annual award, based on contributions to the numismatic hobby over a period of years, reflect the qualities of Mason himself, including openhanded help to collectors of all ages, and the sharing of information and the pleasures of numismatics through organizations and writing.

For additional information, or to offer suggestions on the award, write to: The Walt L. Mason Fund, P.O. Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB SHOW

In celebration of its fiftieth anniversary, the Richmond Coin Club will hold a coin show May 5 & 6, 1990, at the Sheraton Airport Inn, 4700 S. Laburnum Ave., Richmond, Va. The location is just south of I-64 on the eastern side of the city. Table cost is \$85.00. For information on tables, contact Bourse Chairman James M. Harvey, Jr., P.O. Box 36167, Richmond, VA 23235.

LUCIEN BIRKLER MOVES

Lucien Birkler & Co. has announced their relocation on June 1, 1989 to new offices at 1707 L Street, N.W., Suite 250, Washington, D.C. 20036. Their telephone number, (202) 833-3770 remains unchanged.

PERRY HALL COINS MOVES & CHANGES NAME

Allen Strack of the Perry Hall Coin Shop on Belair Rd. on the northern edge of Baltimore, Md., has announced that on July 1, 1989, the shop moved from Perry Hall Shopping Center to a new location at Fallston Mall, 2315 Belair Rd. (U.S. 1), Fallston, Md., about eight miles north of their old location. The shop also has a new name: Fallston Coins & Jewelry. If you are in the area, pay them a visit.

A SHOWER OF RICHES

Having gotten this issue, as well as the convention program, all ready for the printer, I'm suddenly deluged with new material: an article by Loran Ross, a profile of Merv Reynolds and an account of numismatic doings at the Boy Scout Jamboree. Time does not permit their inclusion in this issue, but you will see them soon. In the meantime, most sincere thanks to all of the contributors. Ed.

CONFEDERATE CHECKS

By Jim Ruehrmund

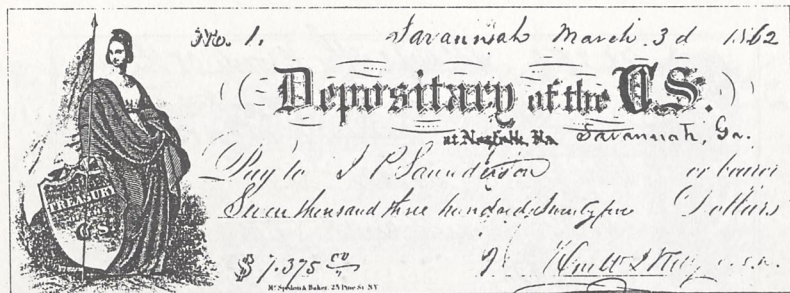
Many VNA members are collectors of Confederate currency and bonds. Others collect old checks, but, as far as I know, the only one who has combined these two pursuits by systematically forming a collection of Confederate Government checks is Dr. Doug Ball. The sale of Doug's collection at the 1987 VNA Convention included a number of lots of Confederate checks, some of which were acquired by the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, and added to its existing check collection. A selection of these items is illustrated here.

Paymasters of the Confederate Army and Navy, quartermasters, and other officials routinely made payments by check. The checks were payable to a named payee, or to the bearer, and were to be paid by the official designated in the check's heading: the Treasurer in Richmond, or one of the depositaries and assistant treasurers located in various parts of the country.

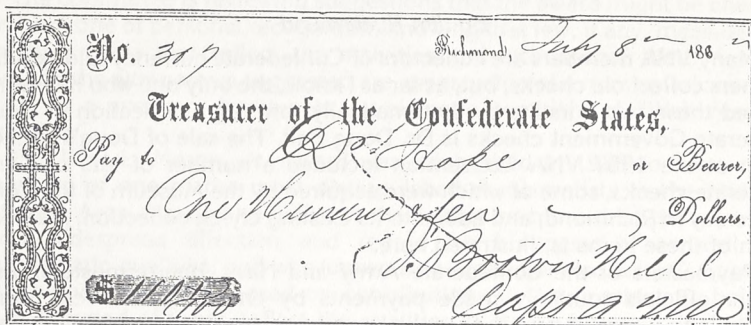
There seems to have been little standardization in the form of the checks used. At first, with no regular printed forms available, some checks were written entirely in longhand. Left over stocks of U.S. checks were also utilized, with the "U" of "U.S." altered with pen and ink to "C". Blank checks of local banks, with the bank name lined out, were also used, and continued in use in some places until very late in the war. Officials were apparently responsible for obtaining their own supplies of blank checks, and relied on local printers to do the work. The regular Confederate checks are typeset. Ornaments and vignettes, when used, are of the types that most printers had in stock, and had used on bank checks. This does not, however, apply to the elaborate drafts issued by the Post Office, Treasury, and other government departments; these will be the subject of a future article.

The Confederate checks illustrated here are but a small selection of a very large body of material. The number of existing varieties must run into the hundreds, but no listing of them is available. Let us hope that this deficiency will be supplied sometime soon.

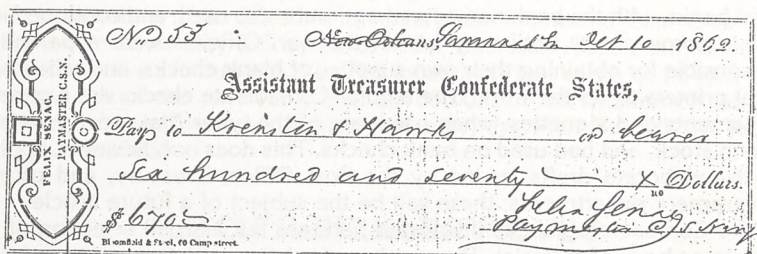
ACKNOWLEDGMENT: Many thanks to Mr. Guy Swanson, Curator of the Eleanor S. Brokenbrough Library of the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia, for permission to illustrate items from the Museum's George W. Ball Collection.



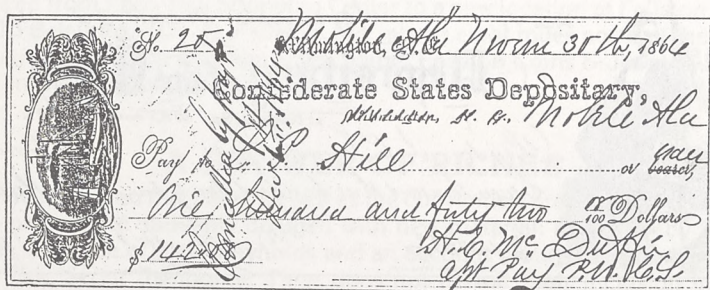
Pre-war check of U.S. Depository, Norfolk; U's altered to C's



Check to account of the Treasurer, Richmond. Va.





C.S.N. Paymaster's check; "New Orleans" altered to "Savannah"



Army Paymaster's check; "Wilmington" changed to "Mobile"

26.
 "Quartermaster", Department.
 26.
 16/5
 Office of U. S. Prison, Georgia.
 Mr Hatch on Andersonville, October 28 1864.
 T. S. METCALF, C. S. DEPOSITORY, AUGUSTA, GA.,
 Pay to H. Minton ^{cash} ~~check~~ or order
 Twenty thousand & _____ Dollars,
 and charge same to my account.
 R. M. Menden
 Capt & Co. 2nd.
 Burke, Yorklin & Co. Printers, Mason, Ga.


 PAID *23* *1864*
 A. J. *Super* *Off* *treasurer*
Bank of Mobile
 Pay to the order of *Twenty four* or bearer
60 Dollars
J. E. Young *4/15/64*

 T. J. McLaughlin & Co. Bankers, St. Paul, Minn.

No. 71

Mobile, July 2, 1884

Pay to the order of J. M. Lynch & Co. or Bearer,
Twenty One Hundred & Twenty Five Dollars.
\$ 2125 00

J. M. Lynch & Co., Cashiers

NEW OF OUR CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB

The ACC meets at 8:00 PM on the third Wednesday of each month at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, Va.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB

The TCC meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at the Lake Wright Motor Hotel on Northampton Blvd., Va. Beach.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The WNS meets at the Guy Mason Recreation Center, 3600 Calvert St., N.W., Washington, D.C. (near the U.S. Naval Observatory), on the third Tuesday of each month, except July & August. At the June meeting Ms. Lorelei Wilson of the U.S. Secret Service spoke on "Know Your Money". An auction sale will be held at the September meeting.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB

The RCC meets at 7:30 PM the first Tuesday of each month at the Signet Bank Bldg., 7 North 8th St. in Richmond. At the August meeting the club made further plans for its 50th anniversary coin show to be held in May, 1990, and also held an auction sale.

ROANOKE COIN CLUB

The RCC meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Roanoke City Library on Jefferson St. VNA's quarterly board meeting was held July 22 at the RCC's annual coin show at Hotel Roanoke; all hands had a great time.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB

The SVCC meets on the second Monday of each month at the Mary Switzer Building, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, Va., at 7:30 PM. In August the club held its annual picnic in Waynesboro.

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The SVNA meets at 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month in the community room at Cavalier Square Shopping Center in Hopewell.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the third Monday of each month at the War Memorial Museum in Newport News. In June the club viewed the ANA slide set on the origina & use of checks, and elected John Behken and Merv Reynolds to the Board of Governors. A successful auction sale of coins, paper money and tokens was held in August.

NOTICE TO CLUB SECRETARIES

Club news is still pretty sparse because, at present, only a few clubs are sending me their meeting notices. I do appreciate the ones I'm getting, but some are still sending them to Don Roberts in Hampton, while others are not sending them at all. In addition to information on your meeting place and schedule, I'd like to publish short accounts of your activities. To do this I need your meeting notices, so won't you please put me on your mailing list. It just might help to increase both attendance and membership. The address is:

Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, VA 23220

MARK ANTONY'S LEGIONARY COINAGE

By Jim Ruehrmund

Thanks to William Shakespeare, aided and abetted by Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, the story of Mark Antony and Cleopatra is too well known to require retelling here. Although Will took a few liberties with the facts, Burton looked nothing like Antony, and the real Cleopatra was not nearly as good looking as Liz, they have given many at least a passing familiarity with the rivalry between Antony and Octavian for the mastery of the Roman world, and the Battle of Actium which decided the issue.

Both sides had assembled formidable forces for the contest. Antony had a fleet of 500 ships, and an army of 70,000 infantry. Octavian had 400 ships and 80,000 infantry. Antony, perhaps at the urging of Cleopatra, decided to stake everything on a naval engagement. The battle was fought on September 2, 31 B.C., off the Cape of Actium on the west coast of Greece, and Antony was utterly defeated. He and Cleopatra escaped to Egypt, where they both subsequently committed suicide. A few days after the battle Antony's leaderless army surrendered to Octavian, soon to be renamed Augustus, leaving him sole master of the Roman world. This was a fortunate thing for Western civilization, for in the forty five years of life remaining to him, Augustus, through wise and patient administration, gave the empire peace, security and order, all of which were totally foreign to Antony's nature.

Antony needed vast sums of money to pay his soldiers and sailors, and for this purpose he issued a special coinage of silver denarii, known today as Legionary Denarii. The issue includes a feature never seen before that time, or since: the coins commemorate each legion of the army. Antony probably intended to dismay his foes by advertising the size of his army, and at the same time enhance the morale of his own men. Much of the bullion was obtained as tribute extorted from client rulers and cities under his control. The striking was done by a corps of moneyers which accompanied the army.

The issue ceased after the Battle of Actium, and the victorious Octavian made no attempt to call in or destroy his defeated enemy's coins, probably because they did not bear Antony's portrait. The legionary denarii were somewhat debased, containing less silver than the normal coins of the time, which insured their continued circulation. They remained in use for about two centuries, and are still fairly common today, although most specimens encountered show signs of wear.

The general design of the coins is:

Obv: A galley, under oars to the right; legend: ANT.AVG./III.VIR.R.P.C. (Antony, Augur, Commissioner for establishing the Republic). An Augur was, by the way, a member of the official priesthood whose duty was to foretell the future by observing the flight of birds.

Rev: Legionary eagle between two standards; legend: LEG (+ number)

The legions enumerated run from the First, LEG PRI(MA), up to the Twenty Third, LEG XXIII. Most Roman legions had distinctive nicknames, a custom dictated by the need to distinguish between several legions that bore the same number, but only three legion names occur on this issue: LEG.XII ANTIQUAE, LEG.XVII CLASSICAE, and LEG.XVIII LYBICAE. Coins with legion names and also those of LEG PRI are all rare.



Legionary Denarii, shown actual size

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 & 2. Obv. & Rev. LEG II | 3. Rev. LEG XVII LIBICAE |
| 4. Rev. COHORTIVM PRETORIARVM | 5. Rev. CHORTIS SPECVLATORVM |

Recognition was also extended to several smaller units. There are coins with reverse inscription CHORTIVM PRAETORIARVM which honor the commanding general's bodyguard, while others with reverse type of three standards and no eagle, and inscription CHORTIS SPECVLATORVM recognize the army's reconnaissance units. Both of these varieties are rare. Coins also exist for Legions XXIV through XXX, but all are fakes.

During the first and second centuries A.D. a number of emperors produced small reissues of old and historical coins, apparently to preserve the memory of important men and events. These pieces, known as restitution or restored coins, are more or less faithful copies of their prototypes, with the name of the issuing emperor, followed by REST(ITUIT), added to the inscription. During their joint reign from A.D. 161-169, Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus reissued one of Antony's legionary coins. This piece is of the same design as the original, but with the following reverse legend:

ANTONINVS ET VERVS AVG REST, and across the field, LEG.VI

The reason for this issue is unclear. It is tempting to ascribe it to the two hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Actium, which fell in September, A.D. 169, but Verus, whose name appears on the coin, had died about six months earlier. Also, it seems unlikely that Antony alone would have been honored on that occasion without a similar reissue of the coins struck by Augustus to celebrate his victory. Since only Legion VI was commemorated, it is possible that the coin honors some now forgotten joint exploit of the two Sixth Legions in the army of Aurelius and Verus. On the specimen illustrated in the British Museum Catalog, one of the standards is topped with a small figure of Victory, a clear reference to Legion VI VICTRIX, the other standard without the Victory may refer to Legion VI FER-RATA. We may never know the full story on this, but, in any case, this coin is very rare.

Modern copies of the legionary denarii, usually of the common ones, are plentiful. Most are cast in a lead-tin alloy, and silver plated. Fortunately, they are not at all deceptive.

Assembling a complete set of the legionary coins is no easy project, nor was it easy forty years ago when the common ones could be readily had for as little as fifty cents apiece. Today, with the same coins costing \$50 or more (usually more), it has become a major undertaking, on which one could easily spend both a lifetime and a small fortune. If, however, you own only a single specimen, you have authentic relic of events that changed the course of history.

SHOW CALENDAR

Sept. 23-24	Huntington, WV Huntington Civic Center	Huntington Coin Club
Sept. 28-Oct. 1	Fayetteville, NC Bordeau Motor Inn	North Carolina Numismatic
Oct. 20-22	New Carrollton, MD Howard Johnson Plaza	MIDDLE ATLANTIC NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Oct. 27-29	Greenville, SC Hyatt Regency	South Carolina Numismatic Association
Nov. 4-5	Raleigh, NC Mission Valley Inn	Carolina Coin & Stamp Show
Nov. 3-5	Chattanooga, TN Quality Inn, East Ridge	Blue Ridge Numismatic Association
Dec. 2-3	Fayetteville, NC Sheraton Motor Inn	Cape Fear Coin Club

SHOW CALENDAR POLICY

The Show Calendar normally lists both club and commercial shows for the next three to four months in Virginia and neighboring states, plus major shows (ANA, MANA, etc.) wherever held. Shows in other places will be listed on request. If you wish to have your show listed, please send a notice, and send it as early as you possibly can. All notices received will be published, except ones for shows that will have occurred prior to publication of the next issue. Send notices to the following address:

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FEATURING COIN MARKET

Beebees donate 1913 Liberty nickel to ANA

The new Beebees Foundation has donated a 1913 Liberty nickel to the American Numismatic Association (ANA). The coin was found by the foundation's president, John Beebe, in his collection. The coin is in excellent condition and is a valuable addition to the ANA's collection.

U.S. gold production heading for record

The U.S. gold production is heading for a record, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The production is expected to reach a record of 1,000 tons in 1990.

Brady officially confirms designs

The U.S. Mint has officially confirmed the designs for the new 1992 coins. The designs were created by the U.S. Mint's Chief Designer, Robert Kalish.

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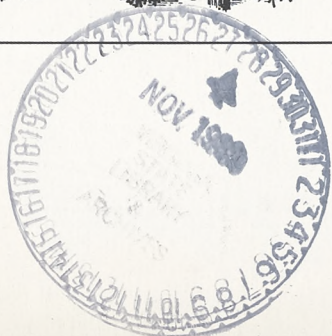
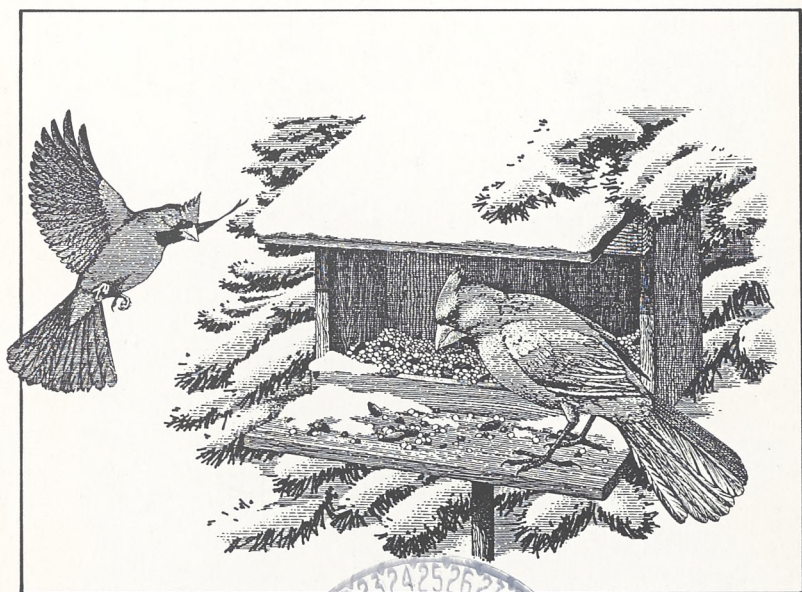
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VOLUME 25
NUMBER 6
NOVEMBER 1989

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The deadline for all copy is the first of the month preceding month of issue (e.g., April 1st for May 10th issue).

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 6
NOVEMBER 1989

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST is the Official Publication of The Virginia Numismatic Association, Inc. and is published six times each year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. All six issues are mailed from Hampton, Virginia at the Third Class Postal Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure and send us your change of address.

All mail relating to The Virginia Numismatist and Advertising therein should be directed to Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, Va. 23220.

Direct all other correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to the secretary-treasurer, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



During the Convention Dinner Saturday evening, I was installed as the 1989-1991 President and, as such, I offer my first president's letter. I thank all board members, officers and members for their confidence in me for this honor, and I intend to do the very best that I can.

I also thank Ginnie Aldridge and staff for the excellent job in presenting a fine convention this year. My thankfulness is also gratefully extended to those board members and very hard workers who have stayed in office with me to continue their efforts for better and greater shows during the next two years.

Our last quarterly was held on 9 September during the 1989 VNA Convention at the Tyson's Westpark Hotel. I thoroughly enjoyed the show, all three days. The bourse was well displayed, and the exhibits very well shown. I must thank all of the exhibitors for their efforts and participation.

As "newby" president, I'll take this opportunity to mention the change in date of the Tidewater Coin Club show at the Virginia Beach Pavilion from 7-8 October to 28-29 October '89. The Tidewater Club has extended their welcome to us, and we will hold our first Quarterly Board Meeting at the show on Saturday, 28 October.

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve. Hope to see you at Virginia Beach.

Happy Collecting

Greg Tucker
President

IT'S TIME FOR DUES AGAIN

Junior Member	\$ 2.00
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PLEASE SEND TO: Keith Littlefield, Sec.-Treas.
3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003

VNA's 31st ANNUAL CONVENTION

Our 1989 Convention at the Westpark in McLean was once again a very pleasant affair, with perfect weather, and lots of fun and fellowship. We had forty nine dealers with an abundance of nice material, and total attendance was around 500. Thanks are again due to the Alexandria Coin Club for their assistance at the registration desk.

Among those present was Mr. A. Thomas Androus of Alexandria, who, at age ninety, was attending his first coin show. He added several pieces to his collection of ancient Greek coins, the bulk of which he has since presented to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and also became a member of VNA.

As was done last year, Saturday was "Walt Mason Day", and many of the dealers honored Walt's memory by offering discounts and low priced material to encourage beginners and young collectors.

The high point of the Saturday afternoon auction, conducted again this year by Mr. Charles Kirtley of Elizabeth City, N.C., was the sale of Bob Balas' University of Virginia gold presentation medal which fetched \$2300.00.

Les Winners was in top form as Banquet Master of Ceremonies, as we enjoyed the tasty dinner served up by the Westpark. ANA Past President Steve Taylor and Burnett Anderson of Krause Publications were both with us again, as was Col. Grover Criswell. Grover introduced the speaker, Dr. Nelson Page Aspen, who regaled us with his account of small size red seals (notes, not animals).

After dinner door prizes were distributed, and the following newly elected officers of VNA were installed: President, Greg Tucker; 1st Vice President: Jim Harvey; 2nd Vice President: Dick Coltrane; Secretary-Treasurer: Keith Littlefield and Directors Lou Doucet, Charlie Hagaman, Ray Haymaker, Page Mann and Mal Powell.

Exhibit awards were presented to the following:

OUTSTANDING AWARDS

Grover Criswell. Hungarian Inflation
Dell Haymaker. Low Moor Scrip
Bob New. Numismatic Portraits of Queen Elizabeth II
Les Winners. U.S. Paper Money & Foreign Coins

BEST OF SHOW

Herbert Hall. Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria

CHARLES AFFLECK AWARD

Ray Haymaker. Five Black Registers

Also, thanks are due to both Bob Ross and Richard Jones for their outstanding non-competitive exhibits.

The Don Roberts Literary Award was presented to Jim Ruehrmund for contributions to The Virginia Numismatist.

After dinner about twenty Rag Pickers repaired to their meeting room for the annual get together. The discussions on a wide variety of topics were, as usual both informative and entertaining. Snacks of crab claws and other goodies provided by Frank Hannah were entirely consumed, although how anyone could find room for them after that dinner remains a mystery.

As anyone who has ever been involved in the business knows very well, it takes a huge amount of work to stage a convention and coin show, and VNA is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of leaders. Thanks and congratulations to General Chairman Ginnie Aldridge, Course Chairman Keith Littlefield, Exhibits Chairman Jim Beard, and all of the others involved for a job well done.

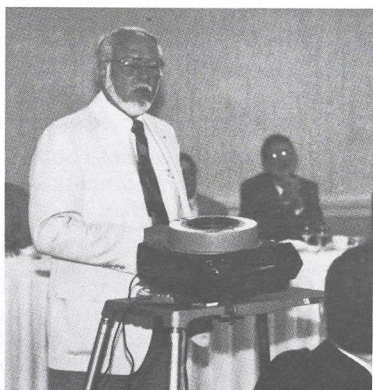
It is a great pity that we have only three convention photos to publish this year. A whole roll of film was exposed, but only a few shots were usable. Apparently the flash malfunctioned. We hope to do better next year.



Incoming Officers (r. to l.): Tucker, Harvey, Coltrane, Littlefield, Mann, Haymaker and Hagaman; in foreground, Jim Beard



Grover kids Steve



Our Speaker, Dr. Aspen

COINS KEEP COLLECTOR CONTENT

By Bud Key

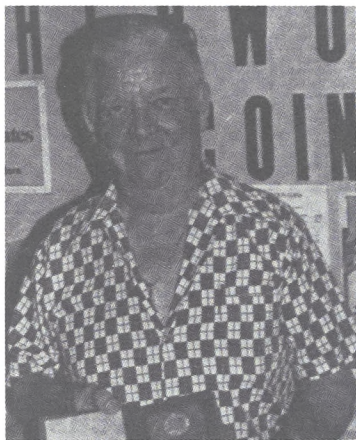
From the Denbigh Gazette, July 19, 1989

When Mervyn Reynolds was a freshman in high school, his grandmother gave him a roll of old pennies. Almost 60 years later, the long-time Denbigh resident is still collecting coins, although now his abiding interest has become a full-time profession.

After serving 23 years in the military and 20 years in civil service, Reynolds purchased Sherwood Coins in 1984, a month after retiring for a second time from Fort Eustis. He moved the business to Old Courthouse Way a little over three years ago, setting up shop in what once was the first gas station in Warwick County.

"I'm originally from Augusta, Maine, but after living in Denbigh for nearly 37 years, I now consider this my home," said Reynolds, who still remembers how excited he was when he found an 1831 penny in the coins his grandmother gave him. "My interest in coin collecting has never wavered. It's been my primary hobby for 45 or 50 years."

So long, in fact, that Reynolds is the only surviving charter member of the Virginia Peninsula Coin Club he formed in 1954. Nine years ago he became the club's president for the second time, and he is still one of the driving forces behind the organization's longevity.



Merv Reynolds

"Coin collecting is still popular, but it is a far more technical hobby today," said Reynolds, Denbigh's only numismatic specialist. "We don't get the younger collectors joining our club like we once did. Our meetings were, at one time, like a social gathering. Now days there is so much more for people to do."

The Virginia Peninsula Coin Club meets once a month at the War Memorial Museum. This, after spending nearly 20 years bouncing around Newport News.

"The club was first started at Fort Eustis," said Reynolds. "Before we moved the meeting to the War Memorial Museum about nine years ago, we met at different banks, the old Citizens Rapid Transit building, and at the downtown Sears building."

Reynolds said his ultimate goal would be to complete a collection of gold pieces mined and minted in Georgia and North Carolina between 1839 and 1859. It's a quest he's been working on for 35 years, adding about one coin for the past five years.

Although he likes traveling — having been all over the world during his military and civil careers — Reynolds said that most of his time is now spent collecting and selling coins and currency.

He rarely goes to the movies, but does keep a portable television in his coin shop, so that he can keep up with "The Price is Right" and "Wheel of

Fortune". Reynolds also enjoys reading books related to numismatics and cites National Geographic as his favorite magazine.

While his wife has tried to convince him to retire to California, Reynolds said he's content to live out his life in Denbigh.

After all, there aren't any coins to be found there that he hasn't already seen here.

Acknowledgment: Sincere thanks to Mr. Bud Key, the author, and the Denbigh Gazette for permission to reprint this article; thanks are also due to Emmett Alley for sending it in. Ed.

NATIONAL BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE, '89

By Jim Ruehrmund

If what I saw is any indication, coin collecting among young Americans is not just alive and well, it's flourishing. Every four years the Boy Scouts of America hold their National Jamboree at Camp A.P. Hill, between Fredericksburg and Richmond, on US-301 near Bowling Green, Va. This year's theme was "The Adventure Begins with American Youth," and the number who came to share the adventure during the first week of August was indeed impressive. Over 30,000 scouts, including visitors from 37 countries, plus about 5000 staff members were on hand to participate in eight days of strenuous fun, making the place for those few days the fifth most populous spot in Virginia. Keith Littlefield and I went on separate days to help at the Coin Collecting Merit Badge booth on the Merit Badge Midway, a thoroughly interesting and reward experience. Yes, the Boy Scouts do give a merit badge for coin collecting. The requirements for it are too long to list here, but it suffices to say that any boy who earns it knows more than a little about numismatics.

The booth was staffed by VNA member George Cuhaj of Astoria, N.Y., Walter Pienciak of Milltown, N.J.; Nick Wibben of Shreveport, La. and Reidan Cruz of Manhasset Hills, N.Y., a thoroughly congenial and hospitable group. They were kept busy answering questions and handing out free foreign coins (one to a customer), ANA brochures and assorted numismatic literature. The booth featured an excellent educational display of coins and tokens, ancient & modern, U.S. and foreign, plus a great collection of tokens and medals relating to Boy Scouting.

It is impossible to say just how many scouts visited the booth, for it was constantly thronged the whole time I was there. Attendance at the Merit Badge Midway for the week was estimated to be 20,000, and a very high percentage stopped at the coin collecting booth. During the day several showers slowed the traffic a little, but not much.

Impressive as the numbers are, I was even more impressed by the young men themselves. Their conversation and their questions indicated that many of them are already active and informed collectors, while others showed a keen interest in becoming collectors. In case you are one of those worried about the future of coin collecting, don't fret. The future of our hobby seems assured. If you don't believe me, come to the next Jamboree at A.P. Hill in August 1993, and see for yourself.

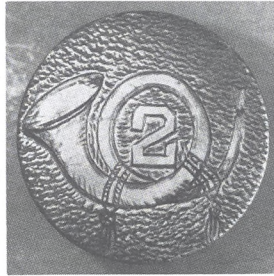
A LABOR OF LOVE

By LoRan Ross

The highest hope of any collector is to make that **FIND** that eludes nearly everyone. To be precise, only one in any given number can expect to come across that elusive **FIND** of a lifetime. We search high and low, pester our friends, dealers, and anyone else we come across, looking for just a glimmer of hope. That glimmer at times is like the Northern Lights; they absorb all else, they glow and shimmer, and all too quickly fade to nothing. We find ourselves in a blind, no way to turn, and nowhere to go; all light fades, and all is dismal. Hope upon hope fades, and in our blind stupor we fail to see the brilliance. Almost, as the saying goes, we can't see the forest for the trees.

Several times I've only seen trees, but, all in all, I think I've been luckier than most. In my ramblings and searching, I've succeeded not only once, but, in my humble opinion, no less than ten times in my collecting life, and my finds are not just figments of my imagination. Even though I've not limited myself to just one collecting field, I've been all too successful in coming up with the most unique gems. I may be tooting my own horn (to put it mildly), but the joy I get from all my finds is almost beyond anything you can imagine.

To quote from the Red Book concerning one particular coin, the 1861-0 half dollar, "as all of these 1861-0 coins were struck from U.S. dies, it is impossible to distinguish one from another". So it is with the piece I was fortunate enough to come across and purchase a couple of months back (see illustration). The date is missing, but I have reason to believe that the coin as an 1856-0 half.



On the obverse, carved as a love token, is the emblem of a Confederate 2nd. Cavalry bugle. The 2nd Cavalry served in a lot of states, including, for a time, Louisiana.

Perchance before the start of the War Between the States, or during a lull in maneuvers and battles, some enterprising and in-love soldier sat down and polished the obverse off of a half dollar, which at the time was no easy task. The with meticulous care he started carving an emblem of the design most readily available, the patch on the front of his cap. To make the lines exact took a great deal of time and patience, and the smoothness of the flow of the lines is evident. The thought of that young sweet Southern belle waiting at home gave an added dimension to his patience, so he did it right. The waves as background were probably done with the

butt of his bayonet, even to the edge of the coin, with evidence of nothing but precise accuracy.

From the number "2" to the tassels, the carving is most exact. A labor of love shows throughout. Although the maker was no true artist, his work gives an impression of how much the recipient meant to him.

We have to feel the impact first of all in the fact that this is a fifty cent piece, and these were not easily available, money being hard to come by. This amount could easily have been all this gentleman had, or could have made from several days work, let alone the pay of a soldier in those days.

As with all love tokens, duplication is an almost impossible feat, so one may, with reasonable assurance, say that this is one of a kind, and no other known to exist.

I feel the rumblings of a true find, first of all, because the collecting of love tokens is new to my expanded collecting field. This, in my opinion, is not the end, but just the beginning of my love token hobby.

When almost all hope fades, look at this and say, "Maybe not for me, but there's always the chance that mine is still out there". So don't despair, look to the new light that is shining, and keep on hunting.

The author would welcome comments, both pro & con. Send them to the Editor, or stop by his table the next time you see him at a show.

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following individuals have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, and will become members within 20 days from the mailing of this notice unless some adverse reaction is received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant

Sponsor

A. Thomas Androus, Alexandria, Virginia	James C. Ruehrmund
James M. Boswell, Gambrills, Maryland	James M. Beard
Burrus M. Carnahan, Fairfax, Virginia	Keith Littlefield
Robert A. Krzywicki, Arlington, Virginia	James M. Beard
Andrew Reynolds, Jr., Covington, Virginia	Raymond G. Haymaker

Applicants for Life Membership

Joel P. Cherry, Alexandria, Virginia
Robert G. Royal, Haymarket, Virginia

WALT MASON AWARD

The sponsors of the Walt Mason Award wish to thank members and friends of VNA for their generous contributions to the award fund.

They also wish to thank all dealers who observed Walt Mason Day at the VNA convention by providing discounts to young collectors and beginners. This year, on their own initiative many of the dealers donated proceeds from the discounted offerings to the award fund, while others donated directly. Although no awards have as yet been made, this continued support is most gratifying, and shows the high esteem in which Walt is still remembered.

Nominations for the possible 1990 award are open to anyone from the mid-Atlantic area who meets the established criteria. Full information on award criteria, etc., will appear in the January issue. Anyone desiring further information should write to:

The Walt L. Mason Fund, P.O. Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.

NEWS OF OUR CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB

The ACC meets at 8:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, Va. The September meeting featured an auction sale plus lots of door prizes and a gold coin raffle.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB

The TCC meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at the Lake Wright Motor Hotel on Northampton Blvd., Virginia Beach.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The WNS meets at the Guy Mason Recreation Center, 3600 Calvert St., N.W., Washington, D.C., on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. WNS has a new Secretary-Treasurer, Richard Foley. Jim Deshong, who had held the post since 1985, has moved to West Virginia. At the October meeting, Col. Jesse Martin spoke on "Promoting Numismatics at the High School Level".

RICHMOND COIN CLUB

The RCC meets at 7:30 pm the first Tuesday of each month at the Signet Bank Building, 7 North 8th St. in Richmond. At the September meeting Howard Perdue and Bill Hilbush presented a program on tokens. An auction was held at the October meeting.

ROANOKE COIN CLUB

The RCC meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Roanoke City Library on Jefferson St.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB

The SVCC meets on the second Monday of each month at the Mary Switzer Building, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, Virginia, at 7:30 pm. At the October meeting, the club heard a talk by Jim Depoy on old wood working tools, and after a refreshment break held an auction sale.

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The SVNA meets at 7:30 pm on the 4th Monday of each month in the community room at Cavalier Square Shopping Center in Hopewell.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month at the War Memorial Museum in Newport News. In June the club viewed the ANA slide set on the origin & use of checks, and elected John Behken and Merv Reynolds to the Board of Governors. A successful auction sale of coins, paper money and tokens was held in August.

ANCIENT NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

Monthly meetings of the ANSW are held in the homes of members in D.C., Md. & Va. For information, write to Secretary W.E. McGovern, P.O. Box 2495, Gaithersburg, MD 20886.

NOTICE TO CLUB SECRETARIES

Many thanks to the clubs that are sending in their meeting notices. I can use still more, so if you haven't done it, please put me on your mailing list. It might increase both attendance and membership. The address is:

Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, VA 23220

SHOW CALENDAR

Nov. 18-19	Parkersburg, WV Holiday Inn, I-77 & Rt. 50	Parkersburg Coin Club
Nov. 24-25	Memphis, TN Holiday Inn East	Whitehaven Coin Club
Dec. 2-3	Fayetteville, NC Sheraton Motor Inn	Cape Fear Coin Club
Dec. 3	Bensalem, PA Old Holiday Inn	U.S., Foreign & Ancient Coin Show
Jan. 20-21	Raleigh, NC Quality Inn, Mission Valley	Carolina Coin & Stamp Convention
Feb. 16-18	Baltimore, MD Festival Hall	Suburban Washington- Baltimore Coin Show
Feb. 18	Salisbury, MD Wycomico County Civic Center	Salisbury Coin Club
Feb. 16-18	Charlotte, NC Merchandise Mart	Charlotte Coin Club

SHOW CALENDAR POLICY

The Show Calendar normally lists both club and commercial shows for the next three to four months in Virginia and neighboring states, plus major shows (ANA, MANA, etc.) wherever held. Shows in other places will be listed on request. If you wish to have your show listed, please send a notice, and send it as early as you possibly can. All notices received will be published, except for ones for shows that will have occurred prior to publication of the next issue. Show notices should be sent to the following address:

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DAVID POWERS, 548 W. BELLVIEW AVENUE, WINCHESTER, VA 22601
(703) 662-0824

WANTED: "Puppy Dog Tags". Prefer Virginia, but collect all U.S.
GINNIE ALDRIDGE, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

WANTED: Yorktown, Va. Medals, Tokens, Exonumia, Notes, etc. Send description, date and asking price to:
C. FRANKLIN MOORE, 160 WINDING WAY, LANCASTER, PA 17602

WANTED: Medals and Medalets of New Zealand.
ROBERT NEW, P.O. BOX 1124, ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC 27870

FOR SALE: 50 years of the A.N.A. "THE NUMISMATIST". August 1938 through February 1989. Approximately 600 issues. Would prefer to sell as a set, \$575.00 cash or trade for coins.
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WANTED: Virginia dairy tokens. Send description and price to:
BILL HEYWOOD, 5033 SHOULDERS HILL ROAD, SUFFOLK, VA 23435

WANTED: Leesburg, Va. Notes. Please send description and price to:
ALAN ANTHONY, 592 ROCKBRIDGE DRIVE, LEESBURG, VA 22075

WANTED: Cash-style coins, colonial, US military, South (Republic) and North (Communist), coins, paper money, tokens, stock certificates, bonds, receipts, and other financial paper of Viet Nam. Please write first:
HOWARD A. DANIEL, III, P.O. BOX 626, DUNN LORING, VA 22027-0626

TOKEN AND MEDAL Reference Books. Send long SASE for our descriptive list. We also buy numismatic books.
JADE HOUSE PUBLICATIONS, P.O. BOX 265, BRYANTOWN, MD 20617

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M.L. POWELL, 15 HEATHER LANE, NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23606
(804) 930-0633

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MERVYN H. REYNOLDS, POB 4324, NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23604-0324

WANTED: Canning Packing house tokens, also Anne Arundel Co. pickers checks. Price and describe in first letter.
JIM BOSWELL, POB 428, GAMBRILLS, MD 21054

MEDALLIONS AND COMMEMORATIVES wanted by private collector. Write with description and price to:
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- Only one ad per person per issue can be accepted.

IRON MONEY IN ANCIENT SPARTA

Lycurgus, the founder of the Spartan state in the 9th Century B.C., considered money a great evil, since it gave rise to avarice, bribery, robbery and other abuses. He therefore banished it by ordering all gold and silver coin to be called in, and only a sort of money made of iron to be current, a great weight and quantity of which was worth very little. To lay up ten minae (equal to about 1.5 kg. of silver), required a large room, and to move it, nothing less than a yoke of oxen. Introduction of this money did eliminate a number of vices. Importation of luxury goods ceased, and who would rob another of such coin? Who would accept a bribe, a thing not easily hidden, nor of any use to refashion, for in making it they heated it red hot and quenched it in vinegar, and by that means spoilt it, and made it almost incapable of being worked.

So wrote Plutarch at the end of the first century A.D. in his biography of Lycurgus. The tale is probably true, except for the part about coins, which did not come into use until about three centuries after the time of Lycurgus.



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Address all official mail of the Virginia Numismatic Association to:

Keith Littlefield, Secretary-Treasurer

3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003

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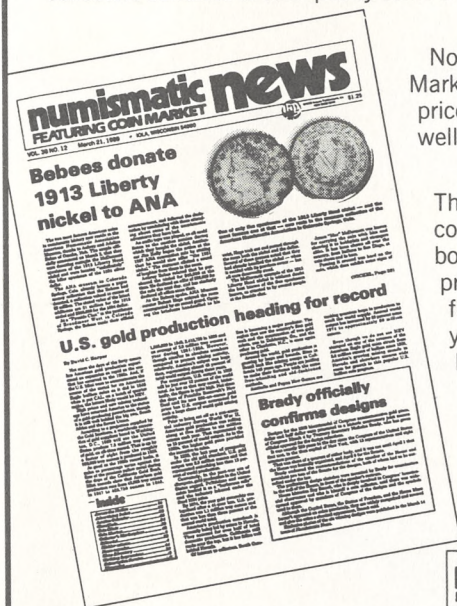
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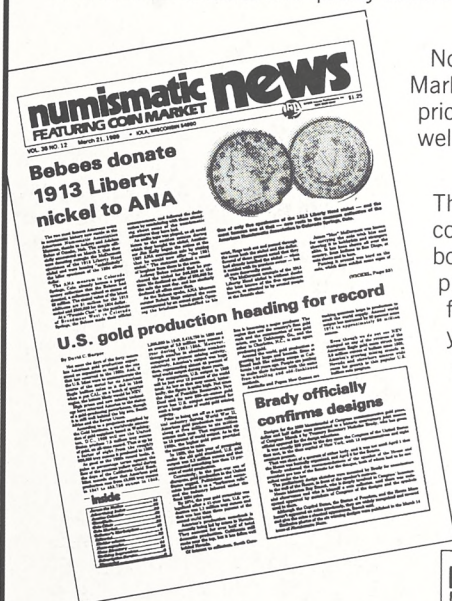


VOLUME 26
NUMBER 1
JANUARY 1990

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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 1
JANUARY 1990

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST is the Official Publication of The Virginia Numismatic Association, Inc. and is published six times each year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. All six issues are mailed from Hampton, Virginia at the Third Class Postal Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure and send us your change of address.

All mail relating to The Virginia Numismatist and Advertising therein should be directed to Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, Va. 23220.

Direct all other correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to the secretary-treasurer, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello again, fellow collectors!

Our quarterly board meeting for October was held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center on October 28th during the Tidewater Coin Club's Fall Show. Before the meeting I had a few minutes to look at the displays and bourse area, and was quite pleased with what I saw. There were thirty five dealers at the show, and a steady flow of interested people entering the room.

The meeting was an active one, with much discussion about next year's VNA Convention and Show, and it was not until later, after several nagging problems had been solved, that a decision was reached to hold our 1990 show September 7-9, at the Richmond Convention Center. The Convention Hotel will be the Days Inn Marketplace Hotel.

A special word of thanks to the officers of the Tidewater Coin Club for furnishing a meeting place for the VNA Board. To elected officers Malcom Gutterman, John Raush, Kathy Scott and George Spelman, and the TCC Board of governors, thanks again for your hospitality.

I ask each coin club in Virginia to again renew their support of the VNA! We are enjoying a rebirth of interest in coin, token, medal and currency collecting throughout the state. This is quite evident in the number of shows and the attendance at them. I think it is exciting, and I'm pleased to be an active part of it. I urge each of you to maintain this momentum by taking an active part in your local club and supporting the efforts of the VNA.

Sincerely

Greg Tucker
President

IT'S TIME FOR DUES AGAIN

Junior Member	\$ 2.00
Regular Member	\$ 7.00
Club or Organization	\$10.00

PLEASE SEND TO: Keith Littlefield, Sec.-Treas.
3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003

EDITORIAL

Great Caesar's Ghost! I never thought I'd live to see the day, but it **has** happened, and just why, I'm at a total loss to understand. Why did the ANA, after forbidding the sale of such items at their shows, turn around and run a feature article (and front cover to boot) in the Numismatist on the subject of baseball cards?

Now I have no quarrel with those who collect baseball cards. It is a hobby enjoyed by many, and the number of collectors seems to be increasing. Fine, more power to them, but I respectfully submit that the collecting of baseball cards has nothing whatsoever to do with numismatics. I feel more than a little put out when I go to a coin show and find a significant portion of the space devoted to the sale of baseball cards. I do wish that the card devotees would mount their own shows, found their own publications, and quit being the cuckoos in the nest of numismatics.

Why has the baseball card hobby burgeoned so mightily over the past couple of years? After all, people, mostly kids, have collected them since they first appeared about a century ago, but it's no longer a kid's game. Some have said that the increased popularity of this hobby is due to the fact that collectors can relate emotionally to the players, a quality not possessed by coins. To this I say, HORSEFEATHERS! The current excitement is due to one thing only, the rich ripe aroma of lucre. One commentator quoted in the Numismatist thought that baseball card collecting might replace coin collecting. This is wishful thinking. Baseball cards are what beer cans (remember them?) were in the '70s, a fad. In any event, baseball card collecting will never replace numismatics (there is a difference). I'll start to worry when a major museum opens a baseball card gallery, but rest assured, that day will never come. If all of the speculators and other get-rich-quick types would turn from coins to cards it might end some of the scandalous goings on that have marred our hobby for years. If they wish to switch, let them, but when they do, they should get the heck off of our turf.

As you have probably gathered by now, I don't care much for baseball cards. Even if I were an avid sports fan, which I'm not, I wouldn't care to collect them, for I've always been leery of anything made specifically and solely to be collected. This also goes for the fancy commemorative and proof coin offerings from all over creation that one encounters these days, but those who collect them will at least have the bullion value to fall back on when the crash comes, as come it will, sooner or later.

Several dealers have told me that they think the presence of baseball card dealers at coin shows is a good thing for it brings in people who would not otherwise come, and it also enables the show sponsors to sell all of the tables. Maybe so, but what effect does it have on attendance by coin collectors?

Our hobby offers something that few others do: infinite variety. Coins have been around for two and a half millennia, and paper money for three centuries; the variety of material available is enormous, and the field offers something for every taste. Unfortunately, the material I've seen offered at many recent shows (our VNA Show excepted) doesn't cater to a wide variety of tastes. It really irks me, when I ask at a show for some of the stuff I like, to be told, "Yeah, I've got a ton of those, but I didn't bring them with me". Walt Mason never said anything like that; trouble is, there aren't enough like him around anymore.

VNA'S 1990 CONVENTION

VNA is coming back to Richmond. Our 32nd Convention and Coin Show will be held Sept. 7-9, 1990. Convention headquarters will be the Days Inn Marketplace Hotel at 7th & Marshall Streets, two blocks from the hotel. For information on bourse tables contact Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, VA 22003. This promises to be a grand event that you won't want to miss, so mark your calendars, and plan to be there.

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following individuals have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, and will become members within 20 days from the mailing of this notice unless some adverse reaction is received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant

Robert F. Mills, Arlington, Virginia James M. Beard
Hugh D. Lipscombe, Mechanicsville, Virginia James C. Ruehrmund

Sponsor

WALT MASON AWARD FOR 1990

The Walt Mason Award Committee has announced that nominations for the 1990 award will be accepted beginning Jan. 1, 1990. Nominations must be in letter form, and may be submitted by individuals or by organizations; they must be received by the committee no later than May 1, 1990.

Walt Mason, one of the most respected numismatists and dealers in the Middle Atlantic Area, died in September 1987. In 1988 a group of his friends and colleagues established an award fund to honor his memory by recognizing others who have shown the same spirit of generosity, integrity and selflessness in numismatics that Walt exhibited throughout his career.

No award was made in 1989, as too few nominations were received. Those nominated in 1989 will be considered again in 1990, and need not be renominated.

The award is based on lifetime numismatic achievement, rather than on any single accomplishment or publication. Persons eligible are those who reside in the area in which Walt was most active: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia and the Carolinas.

Award criteria include: voluntary long term commitment to the encouragement of new collectors; educational accomplishments in speaking, writing and exhibiting; long term active participation in numismatic organizations; zeal to assist collectors in their specialties, and various intangibles, such as personality.

Nominations, suggestions, contributions and requests for information should be addressed to:

The Walt Mason Fund, P.O. Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152

WEDDING BELLS FOR GREG

It is with great pleasure that we announce the happy news of the impending marriage of VNA's most eligible bachelor. Our president, Greg Tucker, and Ms. Norma Jean Senter will celebrate their marriage on the 23rd of December at the French Betsy, on Old Street in Petersburg. VNA extends its felicitations to Greg and Norma Jean, with warmest wishes that every happiness may be theirs.

OOPS, GOOFED AGAIN

In the report on our 1989 convention in the last issue, we inadvertently failed to mention that the top award presented at the banquet, VNA's Walt Mason Outstanding Service Award, went to Keith Littlefield, in recognition of his diligent efforts in organizing our annual shows. Congratulations, Keith, you certainly earned it!

RICHMND COIN CLUB'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

In celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of its founding, the Richmond Coin Club will hold a coin show May 5 & 6, 1990 at the Sheraton Airport Inn, 4700 South Laburnum Avenue. The location is just south of I-64 on the eastern side of Richmond. An auction sale will be held at the show, and consignments of coins, medals, tokens and paper money are solicited. For information on auction consignments, or to reserve a bourse table, contact Steve Bennett, 121 Holly Berry Lane, Prince George, VA 23875; Phone: (day) 804-862-3000, (evening) 804-862-2765.

THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY SEEKS MEMBERS

England's Royal Numismatic Society, founded in 1836, the world's oldest and certainly its most prestigious numismatic organization, is seeking to increase membership. Privileges of fellows of the Society include attendance at the monthly meetings in London, and use of the Society's library, also in London. Admittedly, these are not very accessible to Americans, but fellows of the Society also receive its annual publication, **The Numismatic Chronicle**, a hard back volume which is a mine of interesting information on ancient coins and early British issues, and is easily worth the full subscription price. Fellows also receive a discount of 25% on the purchase of RNS publications. Candidates for fellowship in the Society must be proposed by a fellow having personal knowledge of them, and endorsed by two additional fellows having general knowledge. Entrance fee is 5 pounds, the annual subscription is 18 pounds. Mention of membership may not be used in connection with commercial enterprises. Persons interested in becoming fellows of the RNS can obtain further information by writing to the Editor, Jim Ruehrmund, or by writing to the Secretary of the RNS, c/o Dept. of Coins & Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG, U.K.

WILLEY TOKENS

By Jim Ruehrmund

For those who enjoy old coppers, the British tokens of the late Eighteenth Century offer a never ending source of delight. The range of subjects depicted on them is vast ... people, buildings, industrial processes and products, ships, landscapes and many other things besides. They are fascinating to collect, and what's more, many of them can still be had at quite modest prices.

Some of the characters who issued them are every bit as fascinating as their tokens, and when it comes to characters, John Wilkinson, the Iron-master, certainly occupies a place in the first rank. Born in 1728, the son of an ironmaster, he was brought up in the business, and made a fortune in it. He adopted and perfected the technique for smelting iron with coke, and developed a wide variety of new iron products ranging from furniture, water pipes and lavatories to coffins. His works cast and bored the cylinders for the earliest of the new Watt steam engines, and made that form of power a practical proposition. He also manufactured more mundane things, such as cannon and shot.

Like most British industrialists of his time, Wilkinson issued tokens with which to pay his employees. The "Willeys", as they came to be called, are halfpennies of good weight and workmanship, and are dated between 1787 and 1795. All of the obverses feature a bust of Wilkinson facing right, with the inscription: JOHN WILKINSON IRON MASTER. The decided resemblance of Wilkinson's portrait to that of King George III on the regal coinage is probably no coincidence.

There are three reverse types:

- A man working at a trip hammer beside a furnace (Illustrated).
- Vulcan seated right, hammering on a bar of iron.
- A sailing barge.

The last depicts the *Trial*, the world's first iron vessel, built by Wilkinson to transport his products. Its launching in 1787 attracted a huge crowd of spectators who came to see it sink, which, of course, it did not.

Genuine tokens bear the following edge inscription:

WILLEY SNEDSHILL BERSHAM BRADLEY

This names the places at which the tokens could be redeemed.

There are numerous die varieties of these tokens, including many contemporary counterfeits. Wilkinson's tokens were readily accepted as currency, and unscrupulous persons found it profitable and not very risky to copy them, since this did not come within the preview of the law, which applied only to the counterfeiting of the regal coinage. The counterfeits are usually of lighter weight and poorer workmanship than the genuine



pieces, and some even have Wilkinson's name misspelled. The Dalton & Hamer Catalog lists some 240 varieties of Willey tokens, about half of which are counterfeits. Although there are rare varieties, many of the tokens are still very common, and a representative group of them can be assembled at small cost.

So much for the tokens, now for a bit about Wilkinson himself. His reputation as a character was evidently well deserved, for anecdotes about him abound.

He was obsessed with iron, and used to boast that no letter written by him ever failed to mention the word "iron" at least once. He also had a violent temper. Once, when he and his brother had a falling out, they divided the workmen between them, and held a pitched battle to settle the matter. The fracas resulted in extensive damage to the works, but whether or not the argument was settled remains unclear.

In the 1780's, during one of the brief periods of peace between Britain and France, Wilkinson received a contract to cast forty miles of iron water mains for the City of Paris. The pipes were duly made and delivered, but payment was not forthcoming. After the pipes had been installed, the Parisian authorities were dismayed to find that water would not flow through them. They naturally complained, and Wilkinson informed them that he would make the system work as soon as he had been paid. He went to Paris, taking with him a single section of pipe. When he had his money in hand he went to a certain location, and ordered the section of pipe there to be dug up and replaced with the one he had brought. Once this was done, the system worked perfectly. The canny Wilkinson, foreseeing the payment difficulties, had cast that particular section with a blockage that prevented water flow.

Wilkinson was so proud of his line of cast iron coffins that he had samples of the various models placed about the grounds of his estate. He was in the habit of taking his guests on strolls there, all the while extolling the virtues of his product, and urging them to buy in anticipation of future need.

John Wilkinson died in 1808 at the age of eighty, and even in death continued to create legends. The iron coffin that had been made especially for him years before proved to be too short, and had to be replaced. Once he was in it, he had the curious distinction of being buried three times. The funeral party misjudged their timing in crossing a tidal flat, and were caught by the incoming tide. In that part of England the tide comes in with a rush, often to depths of twenty feet or more, and they were forced to abandon the coffin, and run for their lives. At the next low tide it was found buried in the sand, from which it was dug out and transported without further incident to a temporary vault, where it rested until the elaborate iron mausoleum, designed by Wilkinson, could be completed. When the tomb was ready, Willy's remains were transferred to it, and have rested there undisturbed ever since.

GEORGE'S DOLLAR

We've all heard that young George Washington once threw a Spanish dollar across the Rappahannock River. Few have been able to do it lately, but in Washington's time a dollar went much farther than it does today.

VIRGINIA OBSOLETE PAPER MONEY BOOK REVISION

The Virginia Numismatic Association needs **your help** in financing the publication of the revised Virginia Obsolete Paper Money. Plans are to have the book ready for distribution at the 1990 Annual Coin Show and Convention. This landmark reference will contain listings for all Virginia Treasury, County, City & Town, Private Scrip and Broken Bank known to date, in one volume. A new numbering system, valuation and rarity scale are complete and layout and typesetting has begun. The production run will consist of 2,000 copies printed with the initial 1,000 being bound. Estimates on material cost are \$12,000 with copies selling for approximately \$40-\$50 each.

∞ The purpose of this letter is to solicit contributions from our membership. These contributions can be made in one of two ways: 1) a donation or 2) a benefactor investment.

1. A donation of \$25 or more will entitle giver to have their name published on one of the introductory pages as a member of the **Honor Roll of Supporters for Virginia Obsolete Paper Money Research**.

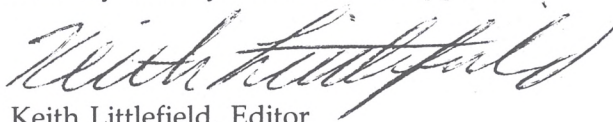
2. A benefactor can make an unsecured, no interest investment in the publication of the Virginia Obsolete Paper Money book in a sum of \$500 and up. Once the sale of the Virginia Obsolete Paper Money has paid outstanding expenses, additional proceeds will be proportioned and distributed back to the benefactors in equitable sums based on the ratio of the gift as a percentage of the benefactor fund. The **intent**, by the VNA, is to reimburse each benefactor for the full amount of their investment only. There is **no guarantee** that the benefactor will ever receive full reimbursement or partial reimbursement in any given time frame. It is also understood that the benefactor shall not hold the Virginia Numismatic Association, Officers, Board of Directors or any individual member responsible for repayment of contribution.

A separate accounting column has been established by the VNA Secretary/Treasurer for the Book Revision and separate quarterly reports will be submitted, in addition to the regular treasurers report, once book sales are initiated. This activity will be tracked as a standalone activity and will not be offset or

A separate accounting column has been established by the VNA Secretary/Treasurer for the Book Revision and separate quarterly reports will be submitted, in addition to the regular treasurers report, once book sales are initiated. This activity will be tracked as a standalone activity and will not be offset or contribute to income or expenses from other VNA activities. Each benefactor will receive a special, limited edition, **presentation copy** of the book as consideration for their investment and risk in assuming the profitability of this endeavor.

Please fill out the following form and mail it with your contribution to Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Va. 22003. For more information call me at (703) 354-9544.

Thank you for your financial support,



Keith Littlefield, Editor
Virginia Obsolete Paper Money

(clip and send with contribution)

I _____ (print name) would like to make a contribution to the Virginia Numismatic Association to support the publication of Virginia Obsolete Paper Money. Check one:

☐ Donation \$ _____ (amount)

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CENTSIBLE FACTS

By Martha Stevenson, NLG

In 1851 the rate of postage for mailing a letter by regular mail was reduced from five cents to three cents. Since copper one cent pieces did not circulate freely in certain states, Congress authorized a silver three cent piece in order that people would have a coin to pay for a postage stamp.



Martha Stevenson receives the Numismatic Ambassador Award from Cliff Mishler.

This Act of March 3, 1851 did two unusual things. One, it authorized that the coin be 75 percent silver. And two, it limited the coin to being legal tender up to thirty cents.

During its first few years the coin proved to be extremely popular before gradually falling into disfavor. Throughout 1851, 1852 and 1853 more than 36,000,000 were struck. During the next nine years less than 6,500,000 were requested, even though the silver content was increased to 90 percent. This decrease in demand can best be attributed to complaints about the coin's size. The silver three cent piece was so small that it frequently became lost or mislaid.

To combat this problem, a new larger coin was introduced in 1865 — a copper nickel three cent piece.

It was easier to handle and more often requested than the smaller coin. By 1873 the silver three cent piece died a natural death.

Sincere thanks to Ms. Stevenson for contributing this article. She lives in Richton Park, Illinois, and this is her first appearance in these pages, but we hope not the last. She is also to be congratulated on receiving the Krause Publications Numismatic Ambassador Award which was presented to her last August by Cliff Mishler at the ANA Convention in Pittsburgh.

MARYLAND STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 1990 CONVENTION AND COIN SHOW

The Maryland State Numismatic Association's 18th Annual Convention and Coin Show will be held May 18-20 at Festival Hall, Camden and Howard Streets in Baltimore (adjacent to the Baltimore Convention Center). For information on tables, write to the Bourse Chairman:

Paul R. Singleton, P.O. Box 894, Annandale, VA 22003

NEWS OF OUR CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB

The ACC meets at 8:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, Va. The November meeting featured a 70 lot auction sale, five door prizes, and a gold coin raffle.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB

The TCC meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at the Lake Wright Motor Hotel on Northampton Blvd., Virginia Beach. TCC held its second Fall Show at the Va. Beach Pavilion, Oct. 28 & 29, an event enjoyed by the VNA Board members who held their quarterly meeting at the show.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The WNS held its November meeting at the DC Congregation Church, 3526 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. on the 21st. Bob Waszilycsak presented a talk on "Art Nouveau on Czechoslovakian Banknotes" which was followed by an auction sale.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB

The RCC meets at 7:30 pm the first Tuesday of each month at the Signet Bank Building, 7 North 8th St. in Richmond. In November the annual donated auction of all kinds of stuff, saw the RCC Commemorative Brass Plug go to Ben Duncan for \$9; the sale realized \$80 for the club treasury. The annual dinner meeting was held at Extra Billy's on Dec. 5th, with lots of door prizes, fellowship and holiday cheer.

ROANOKE COIN CLUB

The RCC meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Roanoke City Library on Jefferson St.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB

The SVCC meets on the second Monday of each month at the Mary Switzer Building, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, Virginia, at 7:30 pm. In November the club held a business meeting, followed by refreshments, and then held an auction sale.

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The SVNA meets at 7:30 pm on the 4th Monday of each month in the community room at Cavalier Square Shopping Center in Hopewell.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the third Monday of each month at the War Memorial Museum in Newport News.

ANCIENT NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

Monthly meetings of the ANSW are held in the homes of members in D.C., Md. & Va. For information, write to Secretary W.E. McGovern, P.O. Box 2495, Gaithersburg, MD 20886.

NOTICE TO CLUB SECRETARIES

Many thanks to the clubs that are sending in their meeting notices. I can use still more, so if you haven't done it, please put me on your mailing list. It might increase both attendance and membership. The address is:

Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, VA 23220

SHOW CALENDAR

Feb. 16-18	Baltimore, MD Festival Hall	Suburban Washington- Baltimore Coin Show
Feb. 18	Salisbury, MD Civic Center	Salisbury Coin Club
Feb. 16-18	Charlotte, NC Merchandise Mart	Charlotte Coin Club
March 2-4	San Diego, Calif. Town & Country Hotel	American Numismatic Assoc. Midwinter Convention
March 3-4	Fayetteville, NC Howard Johnson Plaza	Cumberland County Coin Club
Mar. 17-18	Lexington, NC National Guard Armory	Eagle Coin Club
Mar. 23-25	Chattanooga, Tennessee Quality Inn, East Ridge	Tennessee State Numismatic Society
Apr. 1	Bridgeport, West Va. Holiday Inn, I-79 & US 50	Stonewall Jackson Coin Club
Apr. 8	Towson, Maryland Quality Inn, 1015 York Rd.	Catonsville Coin Club
May 5-6	Richmond, Virginia Sheraton Airport Inn	Richmond Coin Club
May 18-20	Baltimore, Maryland Festival Hall	Maryland State Numismatic Association
Sept. 6-9	Richmond, Virginia Convention Center	VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

SHOW CALENDAR POLICY

The Show Calendar lists shows in Virginia and neighboring states, plus ANA and MANA events wherever held. To have your show listed, send a notice to:

Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Rd., Richmond, VA 23220
TELEPHONE: 804-358-0525

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VNA, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

WILL BUY obsolete banknotes and scrip of the state of Maine needed for my collection. Send description and price to:
MERVYN H. REYNOLDS, PO BOX 4324, NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23604-0324

WANTED: Canning Packing House tokens, also Anne Arundel Co. pickers checks. Price and describe in first letter.
JIM BOSWELL, PO BOX 428, GAMBRILLS, MD 21054

WANTED: Magnets advertising milk, butter, cheese, or any type of dairy products.
BILL HEYWOOD, 5033 SHOULDERS HILL ROAD, SUFFOLK, VA 23435

MEDALLIONS AND COMMEMORATIVES wanted by private collector. Write with description and price to:
AL BAROODY, 493 BURNHAM ROAD, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185

VIRGINIA TOKEN COLLECTORS: Get them while I have them. Three different from SOUTHAMPTON SUPPLY COMPANY, CAPRON, VIRGINIA. GF 10¢, 25¢ & 50¢ IM, Alum. \$21.00 plus postage.
PAGE MANN, POB 1684, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23187-1684

WANTED: Cancelled checks dated 5 May from 1924 to date to complete personal birthday set.
GINNIE S. ALDRIDGE, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

VIRGINIA Business directories, prior to 1930 wanted. Virginia tokens wanted for my personal collection.
ELVIN B. MILLER, PO BOX 366, TOPPING, VA 23169

WANTED: Obsolete banknotes depicting Declaration Signing or Washington's crossing. Also, banknotes on the New Hope or Taylorsville Delaware Bridge companies.
ROBERT W. ROSS III, PO BOX 765, WILMINGTON, DE 19899-0765

FOR SALE: Virginia Depression Scrip, West Virginia Pulp & Paper Co. \$10 and \$20 dated Mar. 10, 1933, \$8.00 each or both for \$15.00 — or will trade for Virginia tokens of equal value.
RAY HAYMAKER, RT. 1, BOX 284, CLIFTON FORGE, VA 24422

WANTED: Richmond tokens, Bon Air bus tokens, and Midlothian coal tokens.

JIM HARVEY, PO BOX 36167, RICHMOND, VA 23235

WANTED: Australia KM102a, 75, 85, 88, 93, 103. New Zealand KM 52, 53, 65, 65a, 66, 66a.

ROBERT NEW, BOX 1124, ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC 27870

MONEY \$TORE RULES

You may send in your ad on a 15¢ postcard. Send it to:
Page Mann, P.O. Box 1684, Williamsburg, VA 23187-1684

- Ads will be run for two issues, and may be renewed.
- Ads must be limited to 30 words, not including name, address, etc.
- Ads must be typed or printed.
- Only one ad per person per issue can be accepted.

The Money \$tore offers a convenient means for VNA members, including dealers, to buy and sell material, and there is no charge for these ads. Ads longer than 30 words will be accepted, provided they do not occupy more than three lines at 70 spaces per line (not including address line). Two pages of each issue are reserved for this feature on a first come, first served basis, and copy must be received by Page Mann not later than the first of the month in which the magazine goes to press.



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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

All Mail relating to The Virginia Numismatist should be addressed to:
Jim Ruehrmund, Editor
712 Westover Road, Richmond, Virginia 23220

Address all official mail of the Virginia Numismatic Association to:
Keith Littlefield, Secretary-Treasurer
3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003

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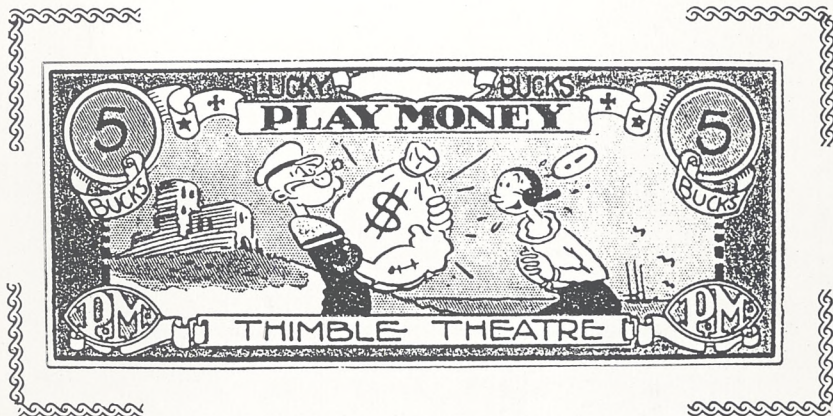
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APR 1990

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST



VOLUME 26
NUMBER 2
MARCH 1990

numismatic news
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The Virginia Numismatic Association has on file the names and addresses of all Advertisers. Any complaints or requests for information regarding advertisers should be referred to The Virginia Numismatic Association at 712 Westover Road, Richmond, Virginia 23220. The right to edit copy, to require payment in advance, and to decline any advertisement is specifically reserved.

ADVERTISING COPY DEADLINES

The deadline for all copy is the first of the month preceding month of issue (e.g., April 1st for May 10th issue).

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 2
MARCH 1990

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST is the Official Publication of The Virginia Numismatic Association, Inc. and is published six times each year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. All six issues are mailed from Hampton, Virginia at the Third Class Postal Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure and send us your change of address.

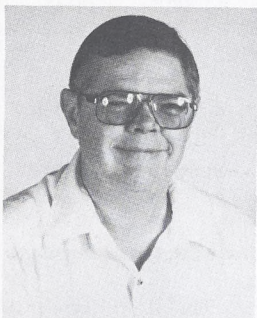
All mail relating to The Virginia Numismatist and Advertising therein should be directed to Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, Va. 23220.

Direct all other correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to the secretary-treasurer, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



How time flies! Hello again!

The winter season has been slow as far as collecting goes, but eventful for me with weddings, Christmas and such, but the late winter-early spring coin show season is upon us! There are several shows on tap this coming quarter: Waynesboro, Salem, Virginia Beach and Richmond. Please check the Show Calendar for dates.

National Coin Week will be observed this year April 15 - 22. This year's theme is "COIN-tinuum", and emphasis will be placed on working with schools to approach young collectors. ANA promotional material, including literature, posters, etc. can be obtained free of charge by writing to: NATIONAL COIN WEEK, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO. 80903-3279. Mr. Lawrence K. Chavis has agreed to serve as chairman of the VNA Program Committee, and will accept any assistance offered for this year's program. His address is: Mr. Lawrence K. Chavis, 18501 Chestnut Ridge, Petersburg, VA 23803.

Our next VNA board meeting will be hosted by the Shenandoah Valley Coin Club at their spring show, March 10th, at the Red Carpet Inn in Waynesboro. I take this opportunity to thank Ms. Armstrong and the members of the club for their hospitality.

Again, I ask each Virginia coin club for their support through this new year. We of VNA will support your club in any way we can, and I extend my personal support to each of your clubs.

Sincerely

Greg Tucker
President

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1990 DUES?

Junior Member	\$ 2.00
Regular Member	\$ 7.00
Club or Organization	\$10.00

PLEASE SEND TO: Keith Littlefield, Sec.-Treas.
3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003

VNA'S 1990 CONVENTION

VNA is coming back to Richmond. Our 32nd Convention and Coin Show will be held Sept. 7-9, 1990. Convention headquarters will be the Days Inn Marketplace Hotel at 7th & Marshall Streets; the show will be in the Richmond Centre at 5th & Marshall Streets, two blocks from the hotel. For information on bourse tables contact Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, VA 22003. This promises to be a grand event that you won't want to miss, so mark your calendars, and plan to be there.



Richmond Centre, 1990 Show Site

1990 VNA CONVENTION PROGRAM

The sale of ads in our convention program helps with the cost of presenting the convention and coin show. Members, member clubs and friends are invited to support VNA by taking ads. The cost is:

Full Page, \$25.00 ½ Page, \$15.00 ¼ Page, \$7.50

Also, you can be listed as a patron for the sum of \$2.00. Send your ad with a check payable to the Virginia Numismatic Association to: THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, 712 Westover Rd., Richmond, VA 23220.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Between April 15th and June 1st nominations will be received for the following VNA offices for the 1990-1992 term: Three (3) members of the Board of Directors. Candidates must be VNA members in good standing. Nominations should be sent to:

Stephen R. Bennett, III, Chairman, VNA Elections Committee
121 Holly Berry Lane, Prince George, VA 23875

PUPPY DOG TALES

By Sophie S. Ruehrmund

I can always tell when Jim is sniffing around for something to put in the magazine, and sure enough, he snapped up my offer of another story. In case you're wondering just how I can do this, I'll say again that being a numismatist's dog has given me a lot of experience in the field. Numismatics is so highly contagious that even schnauzers can catch it, but since it doesn't itch, I don't mind.

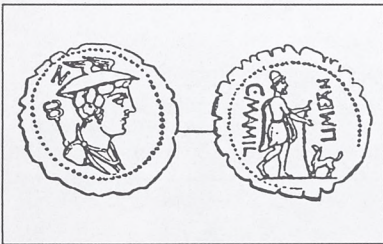
First of all, I'd like to thank all of my friends for the nice things they said about my article on dog tags last year. Ginnie Aldridge wrote to tell me that she does collect dog tags, and has more than 500 of them. I hope to visit her soon to inspect her collection, and plan to do a further report on the subject. Laurese Katzen also commented favorably on my work. Laurese edits the MANA JOURNAL, is another collector of dog tags, and, what's more, she raises schnauzers, a truly laudable activity. Major James Ruehrmund, Jr., Jim's son, who reviews books for the newspaper, read my article, and said that it was every bit as good as many articles written by people. What do you think of that!

I have noticed that lots of you humans have an itch to be famous, and want to be remembered long after you've passed from the scene. Personally, I find this hard to understand, but we dogs don't remember anything outside of our own experience, and, as for itches, we have more than enough of other kinds to keep us occupied, especially during flea season.

I've also noticed that nearly every field of human endeavor has its Hall of Fame. I suppose that's an innocent enough vanity, but, seriously, who is going to remember any of these folks a hundred years (that's 700 dog years) from now? If you really want to be remembered, there are two sure fire ways: arrange to get your picture and name on a coin, or get yourself mentioned in some piece of classical literature; if you can manage to do both, so much the better.

As long as you humans are putting up a hall of fame on every block, I see no reason why we dogs shouldn't have our own Dog Kennel of Fame. Of course I don't mean to imply that admission to it be limited to schnauzers. Actually, I never heard of a famous schnauzer, but we are an essentially modest breed, even though we are quite vocal.

My choice as first nominee for the Kennel of Fame is a hound named Argus, who lived over three thousand years ago. His master was Odysseus, a.k.a. Ulysses, the king of Ithaca in Greece, and their story has come down to us through a poem called the ODYSSEY, written by another Greek by the name of Homer.



The Denarius

It seems that Odysseus went off to fight the Trojans, whoever they were. The war lasted ten years, and it took him another ten years to get home. On the way he met with a whole series of disastrous adventures, lost all of his men and ships, and for seven years was held cap-

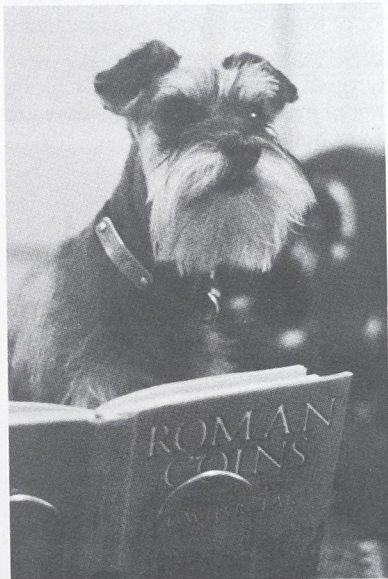
tive on an island by a beautiful nymph named Calypso. At least that was his story, and he stuck to it, but if I had been his wife, Penelope, I would surely have raised an eyebrow at that tale. Anyway, he finally got back to Ithaca, disguised as a poor traveller, as he had learned that a gang of nobles had taken over his palace, each one wanting to marry Penelope and become the new king. As Odysseus came to the palace gate, who should be lying there but his favorite hound, Argus, who had been waiting for him for twenty years. Argus instantly saw, or smelled, through the disguise, staggered to his feet, tottered out to greet his master, licked his hand, had his head stroked, and thereupon died of joy. When you get right down to it, that's not a bad way to go, considering that the poor old fellow was at least 150 in dog years, but it makes me a little sad to think about all those lonely years he had to spend away from his master. So Argus got mentioned in the ODYSSEY, and his fame was assured. He deserved it, for he surely takes highest honors for doglike devotion. Of course Argus knew nothing of numismatics, for coins hadn't been invented then, but he is pictured on at least one coin, a Roman one, issued more than a thousand years after his time.

In about 82 B.C. a Roman magistrate named Gaius Mamilius Limetanus, whose family may have claimed descent from Odysseus, issued a silver denarius with a portrait of the god Mercury on the obverse, while the reverse portrays Argus greeting Odysseus. Wouldn't it have been nice if Mr. Limetanus had owned a hound that claimed descent from Argus? I like to think that he did, but both history and tradition are entirely silent on this point.

We've included a picture of the coin to show you what it looks like. The little notches around the edge, called serrations, were put on after it was struck, and were perhaps intended to show that the piece was silver all the way through, and not a silver plated copper counterfeit. If that's what they were for, they didn't work too well, for Jim tells me that plated examples of serrate denarii are still common today.

We've also included a picture of me to show Laurese K. that I'm properly groomed.

Actually, I don't envy Argus, even a little bit, and not for all the fame that this world has to offer would I want to be in his situation. Come to think about it, I'm willing to leave this fame business to you humans. As for me, I'm perfectly content just to spend my life with Jim and be his dog, and I expect that all right thinking dogs will heartily agree with me.



Doing Research

LUCKY BUCKS

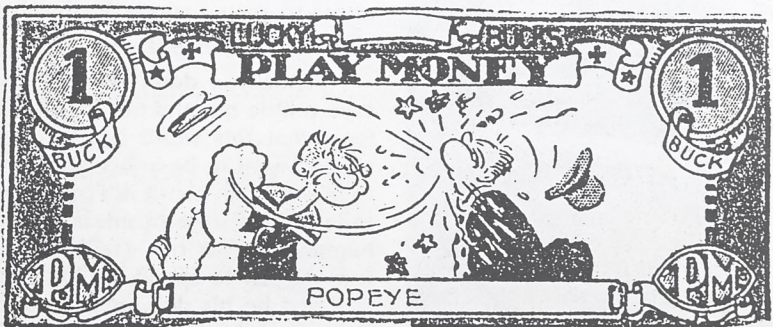
By Jim Ruehrmund

During the Great Depression of the 1930's times were hard indeed, harder than anyone who doesn't remember can ever imagine. Money was scarce, and kid's toys, if they were in the family budget at all, had a very low priority, but the newspapers looked out for us. The Sunday funnies featured not only comic strips to read, but things to cut out and play with. There were paper dolls of characters like "Tillie the Toiler", and also play money, called "Lucky Bucks", which was printed at the bottom of the comic strips. They featured characters from such long forgotten comics as "Tillie", "Dumb Dora", "Skippy", "Felix the Cat", "Barney Google", "Polly and Her Pals", "Tim Tyler's Luck" and many others besides. Thanks to TV, a few of the characters, like Popeye and Olive Oyl of "Thimble Theater", are still familiar. Barney Google is still around. Although his strip was taken over years ago by Snuffy Smith, old Barney still puts in an occasional guest appearance.

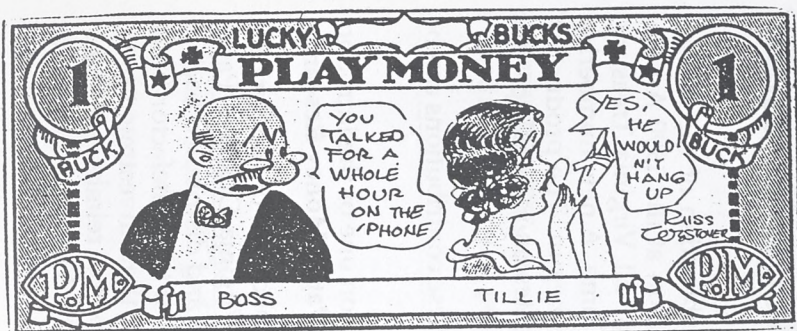
I used to cut out the bucks every week after everyone had finished with the paper, and soon collected a respectable wad of them. My friends and I used to play store with them in a vacant pigeon coop in our back lot, but when we moved in 1940, my bucks, got thrown out. Decades later, once I started collecting "funny money", I came to regret that loss. My bucks were gone forever, but recently, at a local flea market, I happened upon a lot of 62 of them, all different, nearly all in great condition, and at a price of just two real bucks. You can imagine my jubilation. The illustrated pieces are from that hoard.

Although lucky bucks were printed in millions, they are seldom seen today. Most of them went into the trash along with the newspapers. Newsprint doesn't wear well in circulation, and exposure to light causes it to deteriorate, which probably did in a lot of them, so if you have any lucky bucks, bear this in mind when storing them.

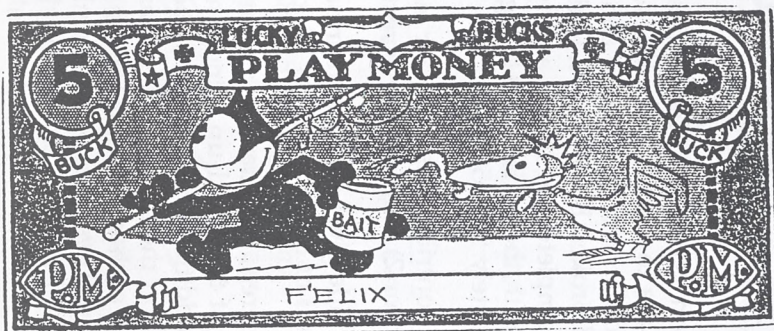
I doubt that lucky bucks have any great monetary value, for funny money is a field that is still mercifully free of investors, but for me they are nostalgic mementos of my childhood over half a century ago.



Popeye Does His Thing



Tillie The Toiler



Felix The Cat



Do You Remember Polly?

VIRGINIA OBSOLETE PAPER MONEY BOOK REVISION

The Virginia Numismatic Association needs **your help** in financing the publication of the revised Virginia Obsolete Paper Money. Plans are to have the book ready for distribution at the 1990 Annual Coin Show and Convention. This landmark reference will contain listings for all Virginia Treasury, County, City & Town, Private Scrip and Broken Bank known to date, in one volume. A new numbering system, valuation and rarity scale are complete and layout and typesetting has begun. The production run will consist of 2,000 copies printed with the initial 1,000 being bound. Estimates on material cost are \$12,000 with copies selling for approximately \$40-\$50 each.

∞ The purpose of this letter is to solicit contributions from our membership. These contributions can be made in one of two ways: 1) a donation or 2) a benefactor investment.

1. A donation of \$25 or more will entitle giver to have their name published on one of the introductory pages as a member of the **Honor Roll of Supporters for Virginia Obsolete Paper Money Research**.

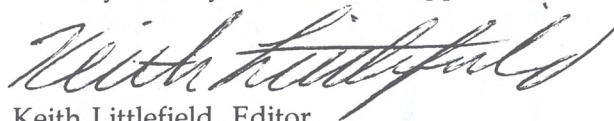
2. A benefactor can make an unsecured, no interest investment in the publication of the Virginia Obsolete Paper Money book in a sum of \$500 and up. Once the sale of the Virginia Obsolete Paper Money has paid outstanding expenses, additional proceeds will be proportioned and distributed back to the benefactors in equitable sums based on the ratio of the gift as a percentage of the benefactor fund. The **intent**, by the VNA, is to reimburse each benefactor for the full amount of their investment only. There is **no guarantee** that the benefactor will ever receive full reimbursement or partial reimbursement in any given time frame. It is also understood that the benefactor shall not hold the Virginia Numismatic Association, Officers, Board of Directors or any individual member responsible for repayment of contribution.

A separate accounting column has been established by the VNA Secretary/Treasurer for the Book Revision and separate quarterly reports will be submitted, in addition to the regular treasurers report, ~~once book sales are initiated~~. This activity will be tracked as a standalone activity and ~~will not be offset or~~ contribute to income or expenses from other VNA activities. Each benefactor will receive a special,

Revision and separate quarterly reports will be submitted, in addition to the regular treasurers report, ~~once book sales are initiated~~. This activity will ~~be tracked as a standalone activity and will not be offset or~~ contribute to income or expenses from other VNA activities. Each benefactor will receive a special, limited edition, **presentation copy** of the book as consideration for their investment and risk in assuming the profitability of this endeavor.

Please fill out the following form and mail it with your contribution to Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Va. 22003. For more information call me at (703) 354-9544.

Thank you for your financial support,



Keith Littlefield, Editor
Virginia Obsolete Paper Money

(clip and send with contribution)

I _____ (print name) would like to make a contribution to the Virginia Numismatic Association to support the publication of Virginia Obsolete Paper Money. Check one:

☐ Donation \$ _____ (amount)

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NEWS OF OUR CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB

The ACC meets at 8:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, Va. The following new officers were installed in Jan: Pres. Frank Falgiano, V.Pres. Mike Sacco, Sec. Joel Cherry, Treasurers George Baufman and George Watson, Bourse Chairman Len Wayland, and Auctioneer Len Harsel.

MOUNTAINEER COIN CLUB

The MCC meets at 1 pm on the 1st Sunday of each month at Hardee's Restaurant, 376 High St., Morgantown, WV. The club's new Treasurer is none other than Jim Deshong, former Sec.-Treas. of the Washington N.S.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB

The RCC meets at 7:30 pm the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Signet Bank Building, 7 North 8th St. in Richmond. At the February meeting Pres. Jim Harvey gave a talk on "The Coal Company Scrip of Midlothian, Va.", which was followed by an auction sale.

ROANOKE COIN CLUB

The RCC meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Roanoke City Library on Jefferson St.

SALEM COIN CLUB

The SCC meets on the 2nd Monday of each month in Room B of the Salem Civic Center at 7:30 pm. Officers for 1990 are: Pres. Peter Hite, Vice Pres. Ralph Hendrick, Treas. Robert Phelgar, Recording Secty. Emmett Yonce & Corresp. Secty. Richard Shelton. The club will hold its 29th Annual Spring Show in April (see Show Calendar).

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB

The SVCC meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Mary Switzer Building, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, Virginia, at 7:30 pm. In January the club held a business meeting and an auction sale.

STONEWALL JACKSON COIN CLUB

The SJCC meets at 8:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 430 W. Piek St., Clarksburg, WV. New officers are: Pres. George Hohmann, V.Pres. Mel Mehlinger, Secty. Rose Mary Kane and Treas. Joe Hyman.

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The SVNA meets at 7:30 pm on the 4th Monday of each month in the community room at Cavalier Square Shopping Center in Hopewell.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB

The TCC meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at the Lake Wright Motor Hotel on Northampton Blvd., Virginia Beach.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The WNS now meets at the DC Congregation Church, 3526 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. In January WNS member Joe Howard spoke on "Topical Collecting - Trees".

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month at the War Memorial Museum in Newport News. At the annual banquet at Steve's Steak House in February the club heard an address by Mr. Wesley Kates, and installed the following new officers: Pres. Alan Oncken, Vice Pres. Harry Hoffman, Sec. Treas. Norm Strock and Sgt.-at-Arms Jerry Bane.

ANCIENT NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

Monthly meetings of the ANSW are held in the homes of members in D.C., Md. & Va. For information, write to Secretary W.E. McGovern, P.O. Box 2495, Gaithersburg, MD 20886.

NOTICE TO CLUB SECRETARIES

Many thanks to the clubs that are sending in their meeting notices. I can use still more, so if you haven't done it, please put me on your mailing list. It might increase both attendance and membership. The address is:

Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, VA 23220

RICHMOND COIN CLUB'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of its founding, the Richmond Coin Club will hold a coin show May 5 & 6, 1990 at the Sheraton Airport Inn, 4700 South Laburnum Ave. The location is just south of I-64 on the eastern side of Richmond. An auction sale will be held at the show, and consignments of coins, medals, tokens and paper money are solicited. For information on auction consignments, or to reserve a bourse table, contact Steve Bennett, 121 Holly Berry Lane, Prince George, VA 23875; Phone: (day) 804-862-3000, (evening) 804-862-2765.

MARYLAND STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 1990 CONVENTION AND COIN SHOW

The Maryland State Numismatic Association's 18th Annual Convention and Coin Show will be held May 18-20 at Festival Hall, Camden and Howard Streets in Baltimore (adjacent to the Baltimore Convention Center). For information on tables, write to the Bourse Chairman:

Paul R. Singleton, P.O. Box 894, Annandale, VA 22003

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following individual has applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, and will become a member within 20 days from the mailing of this notice unless some adverse reaction is received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant

John Mercer, Alexandria, Virginia

Sponsor

James C. Ruehrmund

❧❧❧ **SHOW CALENDAR** ❧❧❧

Mar. 23-25	Chattanooga, Tenn. Quality Inn, East Ridge	Tennessee State Numismatic Society
Mar. 31 - Apr. 1	Virginia Beach, VA Virginia Beach Pavillion	Tidewater Coin Club
Apr. 1	Bridgeport, West Va. Holiday Inn, I-79 & US 50	Stonewall Jackson Coin Club
Apr. 6-8	Wilmington, NC Elk's Lodge, Oleander Dr.	Lower Cape Fear Coin Club
Apr. 8	Towson, MD Quality Inn, 1015 York Rd.	Catonsville Coin Club
Apr. 21-22	Salem, Va. American Legion Bldg., 710 Apperson Dr.	Salem Coin Club
May 5-6	Richmond, VA Sheraton Airport Inn	Richmond Coin Club
May 5-6	Winston-Salem, NC Sprague Recreation Center	Winston-Salem Coin Club
May 18-20	Baltimore, MD Festival Hall	Maryland State Numismatic Association
May 19-20	Raleigh, NC Quality Inn, Mission Valley	Raleigh Coin Club
Sep. 7-9	Richmond, VA Convention Center	VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

SHOW CALENDAR POLICY

The Show Calendar lists shows in Virginia and neighboring states, plus ANA and MANA events wherever held. To have your show listed, send a notice to:

Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Rd., Richmond, VA 23220
TEL: 804-358-0525

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MERVYN H. REYNOLDS, PO BOX 4324, NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23604-0324

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JIM BOSWELL, PO BOX 428, GAMBRILLS, MD 21054

WANTED: Magnets advertising milk, butter, cheese, or any type of dairy products.
BILL HEYWOOD, 5033 SHOULDERS HILL ROAD, SUFFOLK, VA 23435

MEDALLIONS AND COMMEMORATIVES wanted by private collector. Write with description and price to:
AL BAROODY, 493 BURNHAM ROAD, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185

PAYING fair prices for Virginia encased coins. I still have a few SOUTHAMPTON SUPPLY, Capron, Va. left.
PAGE MANN, POB 1684, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23187-1684

WANTED: Cancelled checks dated 5 May from 1924 to date, to complete personal birthday set.
GINNIE S. ALDRIDGE, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

VIRGINIA Business directories, prior to 1930 wanted. Virginia tokens wanted for my personal collection.
ELVIN B. MILLER, PO BOX 366, TOPPING, VA 23169

WANTED: Obsolete banknotes depicting Declaration Signing or Washington's crossing. Also, banknotes on the New Hope or Taylorsville Delaware Bridge Companies.
ROBERT W. ROSS III, PO BOX 765, WILMINGTON, DE 19899-0765

FOR SALE: Virginia Depression Scrip, West Virginia Pulp & Paper Co. \$10 and \$20 dated Mar. 10, 1933, \$8.00 each or both for \$15.00 — or will trade for Virginia tokens of equal value.
RAY HAYMAKER, RT. 1, BOX 284, CLIFTON FORGE, VA 24422

WANTED: Richmond tokens, Bon Air bus tokens, and Midlothian coal tokens.
JIM HARVEY, PO BOX 36167, RICHMOND, VA 23235

WANTED: Australia KM102a, 75, 85, 88, 93, 103. New Zealand KM 52, 53, 65, 65a, 66, 66a.
ROBERT NEW, BOX 1124, ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC 27870

EXPIRED Credit Cards: ANA-LM530 building historical collection, buy any quantity paper/plastic: \$1.00 each plus postage Paying 5¢ each different: membership, licenses, identification cards dated pre-1988. Send directly.

GARY OLSEN, PRESIDENT, HOMESTEAD, FRONT ROYAL, VA 22630
WOODEN NICKELS from '86, '87, '88 & '89 VNA conventions are still available. Price 50¢ each plus SASE. Order from:
VNA, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

I'M CRAZY ABOUT Fairmont, WV tokens and postcards.
GEORGE HOHMANN, 1006 INDIANA AVE., FAIRMONT, WV 26554

WANTED: Virginia numismatic and exonomia with the family name of DANIEL on it. Numismatic and exonomia items of any kind from Middlesex County, Virginia are also wanted. Please write first.
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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

All Mail relating to The Virginia Numismatist should be addressed to:
Jim Ruehrmund, Editor
712 Westover Road, Richmond, Virginia 23220

Address all official mail of the Virginia Numismatic Association to:
Keith Littlefield, Secretary-Treasurer
3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003

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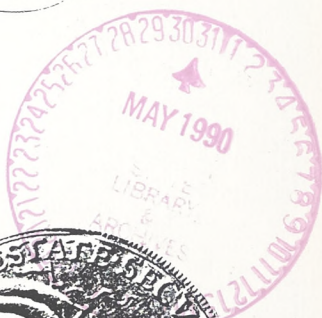
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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST



VOLUME 26
NUMBER 3
MAY 1990

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The deadline for all copy is the first of the month preceding month of issue (e.g., April 1st for May 10th issue).

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 3
MAY 1990

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST is the Official Publication of The Virginia Numismatic Association, Inc. and is published six times each year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. All six issues are mailed from Hampton, Virginia at the Third Class Postal Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure and send us your change of address.

All mail relating to The Virginia Numismatist and Advertising therein should be directed to Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, Va. 23220.

Direct all other correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to the secretary-treasurer, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello once again!

The coming of spring has brought a grand upsurge in coin collecting activity. Following our usual custom, the VNA board met at the Shenandoah Valley Club's show in Waynesboro on March 10th. We all enjoyed the show, and we appreciate the club's kindness in inviting us. The Tidewater Coin Club show at the Virginia Beach Pavilion, March 31 - April 1, was another fine affair with lots of action. The Richmond coin Club show, May 5-6 at the Sheraton Airport Inn on Laburnum Avenue, is next on the schedule. Hope to see many of you there.

Our VNA convention and show, Sept. 7-9, is closer than you might think, by the time you read this it will be less than four months away, and the convention program is already in preparation. The money for printing the program is raised by the sale of ads in it, and from patrons who pay \$2 each to have their names listed. I ask all VNA members, and the officers and directors especially, to support this effort by taking ads or signing up as patrons. You can also help by soliciting ads or patronage from your friends, whether or not they are VNA members. The ad rates are published on page 10 of this issue. Please give the association your support in this important part of preparing for the convention.

Sincerely

Greg Tucker
President

1990 DUES ARE DUE

Junior Member	\$ 2.00
Regular Member	\$ 7.00
Club or Organization	\$10.00

PLEASE SEND TO: Keith Littlefield, Sec.-Treas.
3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003

EDITORIAL

Those who knew Walt Mason will never forget him. He was a collector's collector who preached the joys of collecting for its own sake. He was a dealer whose generosity and fair dealing were legendary. He was also a warm friend whose wit and wisdom entertained us for years through the charming articles he used to write for this magazine, and his sparkling performance as master of ceremonies at VNA banquets. The numismatic treasures we obtained at his table were many, but the real treasure was Walt himself. Shortly after Walt's death in 1987, a group of his friends and colleagues established a numismatic award to honor his memory. Many organizations and individuals have contributed generously to the award fund, but, unfortunately, everyone has been decidedly backward in nominating candidates to receive the award. So far this year only three nominations have been received by the committee. This is possibly due to a feeling that the person honored has to be a Walt Mason duplicate. Well, if that were the case, the award will never be given, for, as we all know very well, Walt was unique. Perhaps the problem is due to the reluctance of people nowadays to write anything. Whatever the cause, it's a crying shame that folks who are willing to put up money for the award are too lethargic to nominate anyone to receive it. It's not at all right that this award should go begging, surely there must be in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia and the Carolinas any number of distinguished numismatists who embody those qualities we admired so much in Walt, and whose unselfish contributions to our hobby over the years are worthy of recognition. You owe it both to them and to Walt's memory to nominate such persons for the award. The committee has extended the deadline for nominations to July 1, so if you know of someone who should be considered, don't delay, act now. Get busy with your pen, pencil or typewriter, write up your nomination, and send it to:

The Walt Mason Fund
P.O. Box 2301
Springfield, VA 22152

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following individual has applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association and will become a member within 20 days from the mailing of this notice unless some adverse reaction is received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant

Stephen D. Eccles, Annandale, Virginia

Sponsor

Keith Littlefield

"THE SPIRIT OF PHILADELPHIA"

A WEEK-LONG CONFERENCE ON NUMISMATICS

To meet the growing demand, the American Numismatic Association will offer its first-ever East Coast numismatic conference in Philadelphia, from Sunday, June 17 through Saturday, June 23, 1990.

ANA Executive Director, Robert J. Leuver said, "We have been offering our week-long summer conference at our headquarters in Colorado Springs for more than 20 years, and we are pleased to be able to present a second week for the thousands of collectors in the East."

Titled "The Spirit of Philadelphia", the conference classes will be held at Bryn Mawr College, and special tours of the Philadelphia Mint and the Federal Reserve have been arranged for participants.

Courses for the seminar include:

- "U.S. Commemoratives, Morgan and Peace Dollars" by Anthony Swiatek and David Hendrickson, who will offer a broad but in-depth overview of these magnificent coins to collectors and investors.
- "U.S. Coin Grading" by Mary Sauvain of The ANA Certification Service, who will present a complete understanding of how U.S. coins should be graded according to the ANA standards.
- "Detection of Counterfeit and Altered Coins" by J.P. Martin, also of the ANA Certification Service, who will teach how to spot counterfeit and altered coins.
- "Coins of the Roman World" by ANA Money Museum Curator R.W. Hoge, who will share his extensive knowledge of coins that circulated during ancient times.
- "Introduction to Money of Colonial America" by numismatist and ANA Governor Kenneth E. Bressett, who will examine money in American prior to 1793.
- "World Paper Money" by Stephen R. Taylor and Dr. Nelson Page Aspen, who will examine this newest and fastest-growing numismatic area from both U.S. and foreign perspectives.

Registration will be from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 17, followed by an opening ceremony and reception that evening. Classes will be held from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and there will be a numismatic get together from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. each evening, except Thursday evening, when the graduation ceremony will be held. Friday will feature tours of the Philadelphia Mint and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Check out will be on Saturday, June 23.

The conference is open to both members and non-members of the ANA. The cost, which includes tuition, lodging, meals and graduation festivities is \$600 for ANA members and \$700 for non-members. Tuition only fees are \$475 for members and \$525 for non-members. The fee for a spouse or child utilizing the lodging and meals but not attending classes is \$325 per person.

Special airfares have been arranged with American Airlines.

For more information about the "Spirit of Philadelphia" numismatic conference, accommodations, airfare and registration, contact the American Numismatic Association, Educational Services Department, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, or telephone (800) 367-9723.

This will be a week of instruction and entertainment that you don't want to miss.

HEADS OR TAILS?

Gambling by tossing or flipping coins for heads or tails is a very old custom, although not nearly as old as coinage. The earliest coins were too lumpy, and even after coins became round, the high relief of the obverse and placement of the reverse type in a sunken field made them unsuitable for tossing, as they tended to land obverse down more often than not. It took several centuries for coins of sufficiently low relief to evolve, and probably several centuries more before someone thought of gambling with them. Just when this happened we will never know; it was a subject which ancient authors doubtless considered too undignified to mention. One of the earliest references we have is in a Roman poem, the *SATURNALIA*, written ca. A.D. 400 by Ambrosius Theodosius Macrobius (no joke, that really was his name). In it he wrote, "When boys toss coins in gaming, they cry out 'Heads or Ship'". The reference is to the two faced head of Janus and the galley prow which appeared on the bronze asses of the Roman Republic. Issue of these coins ceased around 80 B.C., but the tosser's cry of "*Capita aut Navia*", "Heads or Ship", was still in use nearly five centuries later.

The custom of flipping coins was probably spread through Europe by the Romans, and local terminology replaced the original Latin. In Medieval times the term used was "Cross and Pile", the cross being the usual reverse type, while the pile was the obverse die which formed the portrait or head side. Our modern English expression, heads and tails came into use several centuries ago, but just when is uncertain. Europeans have spread the custom throughout the world to places where it had not already been developed, and coin flipping as a casual and generally innocent form of gambling is thoroughly international.

Coin flipping underwent its ultimate development at the hands of the Australians, who decades ago devised a game called Two Up, which is distinctly their own. Although it was developed from the simple pitching of coins for heads or tails, comparing this to Two Up is a little like comparing the game of Old Maid to Las Vegas Blackjack. Two Up is designed for serious gambling, and has rules and terminology all its own.

The participants, any number of them, form a ring. Play is controlled by the "Boxer", who manages the "Center", or bank, and claims a percentage of winning bets and side bets. The player, or "Spinner" stands in the center of the ring, and holds a flat stick on which two pennies are placed.



Capita aut Navia - Heads or Tails, a Roman As

The pennies used are the old large ones, last struck in 1964. They are now obsolete, but sufficient stocks remain to ensure that the game will never die out for lack of them. The obverse sides of both coins are polished for quick and easy identification. The Spinner, at a signal from the Boxer tosses up the coins, and on his first toss bets that he will "head 'em", that is, that both coins will come up heads. On subsequent throws he can bet on either heads or tails. If the coins fall one heads and the other tails, it is considered no toss, and they are tossed again. All present can bet. The action is fast, and large sums can be quickly won and lost.

Although technically illegal, the popularity of Two Up in Australia at one time amounted almost to a national mania. It's not quite so popular today, due, no doubt, to the advent of television and other newer diversions, but it will never disappear, for it is closely identified with another item of Australian tradition, the ANZACs. ANZAC is an acronym for the soldiers of the Australia New Zealand Army Corps of World War I, whose superb fighting at Gallipoli during the 1915 Dardanelles Campaign in Turkey, brought Australia to world notice as a breeder of valiant fighting men. The ANZACS were noted not only for their fighting qualities, but also for their devotion to Two Up, which they played with great enthusiasm in their spare moments. They were probably unaware that their foes across the way, the Turks, also whiled away their spare moments by tossing up coins. Their expression for heads and tails, yazi, tugra (writing, sultan's seal) refers to the design of coins of the Ottoman Empire. These disappeared in 1922 when the last sultan was deposed, and Turkey became a republic, but the expression is still used in modern Turkish.

The day of the initial landing at Gallipoli, 25 April, is observed in Australia as a national Holiday, ANZAC Day, their equivalent of our Veterans Day. On ANZAC Day Two Up is played all over Australia in the rooms of the Returned Soldiers League, an organization analogous to the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars in this country. Surviving ANZACS, the youngest of them now well into their 90's, are becoming fewer every year, but Australia will never forget them, nor will it forget their favorite game.

Acknowledgment: Many thanks to Mr. Adam Kleemeyer of the Australian Embassy, Washington, D.C. for supplying material used in this article.



Two Up is played with old Australian pennies like these

THE EARLY PAPER MONEY OF AMERICA

Third Edition, by Eric P. Newman
Published by Krause Publications, Iola, WI
482 pages, hardcover, price \$49.95

Collectors and students of early American paper money, who have come to expect that anything written on the subject by Eric Newman and published by Krause is bound to be excellent, will not be disappointed in this volume, for it is a magnificent piece of work. In the fourteen years since publication of the last edition Mr. Newman's indefatigable research has turned up many previously unpublished notes, and altogether, several thousand changes have been made.

The Historical Introduction provides as lucid an account of the early currency as can be found anywhere, while the catalog section covers in detail notes of the individual British, French and Spanish colonies that are now part of the United States; Continental Currency, 1776-1777, notes of the individual states, 1776-1788; notes of incorporated and unincorporated banks, 1786-1800; and scrip issued by individuals, businesses, organizations, cities and counties from 1729 to 1800. Included in the latter are the change notes of Philadelphia merchant Evan Morgan, printed for him in 1729 by 23 year old Ben Franklin, even then a staunch believer in paper money, who took some of the newly printed bills in payment for his work.

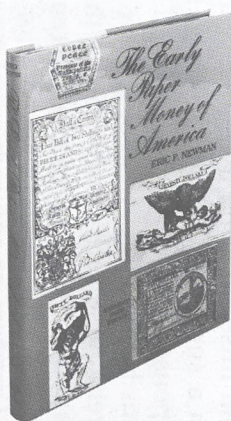
Listed and illustrated for the first time are the newly discovered 1718 issues of John Law's "Mississippi Bubble", and the notes issued by Robert Morris from 1781 to 1784 in support of the U.S. Government.

The listing of more than 650 items is accompanied by just under 900 illustrations, including sixteen splendid color plates. Current market valuations are given for up to five grades of preservation. All issues cannot

be priced, since, for many of the early ones, no surviving examples are known, while others are known today only from surviving counterfeits. Still others are so rare, and come up for sale so infrequently that pricing is not possible. On the other hand, many varieties can still be had at relatively modest prices. Except for the higher grades, prices have not greatly increased since the 1976 edition; in a few cases they have gone down, and none of the increases has been anything like what we have seen in the past fourteen years with other kinds of numismatic material.

In addition to note listings, the book includes appendices on Sheet Structure, Counterfeits, Exchange Values, a Revolutionary War depreciation Table and Ben Franklin's explanation of "Nominal Money". Three new indices have been added: Printers, Engravers and Designers; Counterfeits, and Mottoes and Emblematic Legends.

Both author and publisher are to be congratulated on this great work which all "Rag Pickers" with a taste for early material will surely want to add to their libraries.



VIRGINIA OBSOLETE PAPER MONEY BOOK REVISION

The Virginia Numismatic Association needs **your help** in financing the publication of the revised Virginia Obsolete Paper Money. Plans are to have the book ready for distribution at the 1990 Annual Coin Show and Convention. This landmark reference will contain listings for all Virginia Treasury, County, City & Town, Private Scrip and Broken Bank known to date, in one volume. A new numbering system, valuation and rarity scale are complete and layout and typesetting has begun. The production run will consist of 2,000 copies printed with the initial 1,000 being bound. Estimates on material cost are \$12,000 with copies selling for approximately \$40-\$50 each.

∞ The purpose of this letter is to solicit contributions from our membership. These contributions can be made in one of two ways: 1) a donation or 2) a benefactor investment.

1. A donation of \$25 or more will entitle giver to have their name published on one of the introductory pages as a member of the **Honor Roll of Supporters for Virginia Obsolete Paper Money Research**.

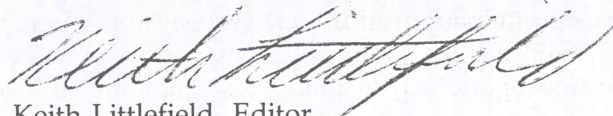
2. A benefactor can make an unsecured, no interest investment in the publication of the Virginia Obsolete Paper Money book in a sum of \$500 and up. Once the sale of the Virginia Obsolete Paper Money has paid outstanding expenses, additional proceeds will be proportioned and distributed back to the benefactors in equitable sums based on the ratio of the gift as a percentage of the benefactor fund. The **intent**, by the VNA, is to reimburse each benefactor for the full amount of their investment only. There is **no guarantee** that the benefactor will ever receive full reimbursement or partial reimbursement in any given time frame. It is also understood that the benefactor shall not hold the Virginia Numismatic Association, Officers, Board of Directors or any individual member responsible for repayment of contribution.

A separate accounting column has been established by the VNA Secretary/Treasurer for the Book Revision and separate quarterly reports will be submitted, in addition to the regular treasurers report, once book sales are initiated. This activity will be tracked as a standalone activity and will not be offset or contribute to income or expenses from other VNA activities. Each benefactor will receive a special,

Revision and separate quarterly reports will be submitted, in addition to the regular treasurers report, once book sales are initiated. This activity will be tracked as a standalone activity and will not be offset or contribute to income or expenses from other VNA activities. Each benefactor will receive a special, limited edition, **presentation copy** of the book as consideration for their investment and risk in assuming the profitability of this endeavor.

Please fill out the following form and mail it with your contribution to Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Va. 22003. For more information call me at (703) 354-9544.

Thank you for your financial support,



Keith Littlefield, Editor

Virginia Obsolete Paper Money

(clip and send with contribution)

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☐ Donation \$ _____ (amount)

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THE MARINER'S CHARM

If you have occasion to sort through batches of old coins, you may once in a while come across a piece of the following design:

Knight in armor (St. George) on horseback, slaying a dragon

Legend: S. GEORGIVS EQVITVM PATRONVS (St. George, Patron of the Knights).

Christ asleep in a storm tossed ship

Legend: IN TEMPESTATE SECVRITAS (Safety in the Storm)

Such pieces are called Mariner's Charms. They are medals intended to be worn or carried on the person as amulets or charms to ward off the perils of travel by land and sea. Their modern equivalent is the St. Christopher medal, which is often worn by travellers today. Mariner's charms come in copper, brass and silver, and sometimes in gold. The latter seem to have been made in fractions or multiples of the ducat. They range in size from about 15mm to more than 40 mm. Many must have been made, for they are not particularly rare.

These medals were produced during the 17th and 18th Centuries, chiefly by the mint of Kremnitz, which at the time was part of Hungary. They were especially popular among sailors and others making dangerous sea voyages in an era when any sea voyage at all was likely to be dangerous. Some were pierced or fitted with a loop for suspension; some were carried as pocket pieces. Surviving specimens often show wear resulting from this usage, augmented perhaps by a little extra wear from hard rubbing in moments of extreme stress.

Although we have no way of knowing how effective they were, we should remember that the well worn charm which we encounter today is available for us to collect only because the mariner who wore it two or more centuries ago made it back safely from his voyages.



Mariner's Charm in silver, pierced for suspension

1990 VNA CONVENTION PROGRAM

The sale of ads in our convention program helps with the cost of presenting the convention and coin show. Members, member clubs and friends are invited to support VNA by taking ads. The cost is:

Full Page, \$25.00

½ Page, \$15.00

¼ Page, \$7.50

Also, you can be listed as a patron for the sum of \$2.00. Send your ad with a check payable to the Virginia Numismatic Association to:

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, 712 Westover Rd., Richmond, VA 23220

NEWS OF OUR CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB

The ACC meets at 8:00 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, Va. At the March meeting the club held a coin quiz, and raffled off a Mexican 2½ peso piece.

MOUNTAINEER COIN CLUB

The MCC meets at 1 PM on the 1st Sunday of each month at Hardee's Restaurant, 376 High St., Morgantown, WV.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB

The RCC meets at 7:30 PM the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Signet Bank Building, 7 North 8th St. in Richmond. The club has enjoyed a series of interesting programs by members; in March Rob Buckey spoke on Seated Liberty Dollars; in April Joe Bush spoke on Ancient Greek Coins.

ROANOKE COIN CLUB

The RCC meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Roanoke City Library on Jefferson St.

SALEM COIN CLUB

The SCC meets on the 2nd Monday of each month in Room B of the Salem Civic Center at 7:30 PM.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB

The SVCC meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Mary Switzer Building, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, Virginia, at 7:30 PM. The SVCC annual spring coin show was held March 10 & 11 at the Outlet Mall in Waynesboro, after the planned site, the Red Carpet Inn was damaged by fire. Despite the move, the show was great, and VNA appreciates the club's hospitality in hosting our board meeting.

STONEWALL JACKSON COIN CLUB

The SJCC meets at 8:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 430 W. Piek St., Clarksburg, WV.

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The SVNA meets at 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month in the community room at Cavalier Square Shopping Center in Hopewell.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB

The TCC meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at the Lake Wright Motor Hotel on Northampton Blvd., Virginia Beach. The TCC held its spring show at the Virginia Beach Pavilion, March 31 - April 1.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The WNS now meets at the DC Congregation Church, 3526 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. In March the club heard a talk by WNS member Harry Manville on "Scottish Coinage as Shown Through Its Gold".

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of each month at the War Memorial Museum in Newport News.

ANCIENT NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

Monthly meetings of the ANSW are held in the homes of members in D.C., Md. & Va. For information, write to Secretary W.E. McGovern, P.O. Box 2495, Gaithersburg, MD 20886.

NOTICE TO CLUB SECRETARIES

Many thanks to the clubs that are sending in their meeting notices. I need more, so if you haven't done it, please put me on your mailing list, Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, VA 23220

SHOW CALENDAR

May 18-20	Baltimore, MD Festival Hall	Maryland State Numismatic Association
May 19-20	Raleigh, NC Quality Inn, Mission Valley	Raleigh Coin Club
June 9-10	Ronceverte, WV National Guard Armory	Ronceverte River Coin & Collectible Show
June 15-17	Memphis, TN Cook Convention Center	INTERNATIONAL PAPER MONEY SHOW
July 13-15	New Carrollton, MD	Metropolitan Washington Coin Show
Aug. 22-26	Seattle, WA	AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Sep. 6-9	Richmond, VA Convention Center	VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

SHOW CALENDAR POLICY

The Show Calendar lists shows in Virginia and neighboring states, plus ANA and MANA events wherever held. To have your show listed, send a notice to:

Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Rd., Richmond, VA 23220
Or notify by telephone at 804-358-0525

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MERVYN H. REYNOLDS, PO BOX 4324, NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23604-0324

WANTED: B.P.O.E. (Elks) exonumia and canning/packing tokens.
JIM BOSWELL, PO BOX 428, GAMBRILLS, MD 21054

WANTED: Magnets advertising milk, butter, cheese, or any type of dairy products.

BILL HEYWOOD, 5033 SHOULDERS HILL ROAD, SUFFOLK, VA 23435

MEDALLIONS AND COMMEMORATIVES wanted by private collector. Write with description and price to:

AL BAROODY, 493 BURNHAM ROAD, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185

PAYING fair prices for Virginia encased coins. I still have a few SOUTHAMPTON SUPPLY, Capron, Va. left.

PAGE MANN, POB 1684, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23187-1684

WANTED: Canceled checks dated 5 May from 1924 to date, to complete personal birthday set.

GINNIE S. ALDRIDGE, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

VIRGINIA Business directories, prior to 1930 wanted. Virginia tokens wanted for my personal collection.

ELVIN B. MILLER, PO BOX 366, TOPPING, VA 23169

WANTED: Obsolete banknotes depicting Declaration Signing or Washington's Crossing. Also, banknotes on the New Hope or Taylorsville Delaware Bridge Companies.

ROBERT W. ROSS III, PO BOX 765, WILMINGTON, DE 19899-0765

FOR SALE: Virginia Depression Scrip, West Virginia Pulp & Paper Co. \$10 and \$20 dated Mar. 10, 1933, \$8.00 each or both for \$15.00 — or will trade for Virginia tokens of equal value.

RAY HAYMAKER, RT. 1, BOX 284, CLIFTON FORGE, VA 24422

WANTED: Richmond tokens, Bon Air bus tokens, and Midlothian coal tokens.

JIM HARVEY, PO BOX 36167, RICHMOND, VA 23235

WANTED: Australia KM102a, 75, 85, 88, 93, 103, New Zealand KM 52, 53, 65, 65a, 66, 66a.

ROBERT NEW, BOX 1124, ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC 27870

EXPIRED Credit Cards: ANA-LM530 building historical collection, buy any quantity paper/plastic: \$1.00 each plus postage Paying 5¢ each different: membership, licenses, identification cards dated pre-1988. Send directly.

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VNA, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

I'M CRAZY ABOUT Fairmont, WV tokens and postcards.

GEORGE HOHMANN, 1006 INDIANA AVE., FAIRMONT, WV 26554

WANTED: Virginia numismatic and exonomia with the family name of DANIEL on it. Numismatic and exonomia items of any kind from Middlesex County, Virginia are also wanted. Please write first.

HOWARD A. DANIEL III, PO BOX 626, DUNN LORING, VA 22027-0626

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You may send in your ad on a 15¢ postcard. Send it to:

Page Mann, P.O. Box 1684, Williamsburg, VA 23187-1684

- Ads will be run for two issues, and may be renewed.
- Ads must be limited to 30 words, not including name, address, etc.
- Ads must be typed or printed.
- Only one ad per person per issue can be accepted.



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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

All Mail relating to The Virginia Numismatist should be addressed to:

Jim Ruehrmund, Editor

712 Westover Road, Richmond, Virginia 23220

Address all official mail of the Virginia Numismatic Association to:

Keith Littlefield, Secretary-Treasurer

3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003

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President Gregory E. Tucker, Petersburg, Virginia
1st Vice President James M. Harvey, Richmond, Virginia
2nd Vice President Richard B. Coltrane, Newport News, Virginia
Secretary-Treasurer Keith Littlefield, Annandale, Virginia
Sergeant-At-Arms Robert W. Bunn, Newport News, Virginia

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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST



RICHMOND CENTRE, 1990 SHOW SITE

VOLUME 26
NUMBER 4
JULY 1990

MORE THAN 300,000,000...



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(Non-Contract Advertising accepted in the Order received, providing space is available. Please reserve space early.) All Advertising copy must be typed.

Advertisers please note: No Ads will be accepted from Minors without their parents consent. All ads must have Numismatic significance. Special or unusual copy requirements will be billed extra. If in doubt, please write for details.

The Virginia Numismatic Association has on file the names and addresses of all Advertisers. Any complaints or requests for information regarding advertisers should be referred to The Virginia Numismatic Association at 712 Westover Road, Richmond, Virginia 23220. The right to edit copy, to require payment in advance, and to decline any advertisement is specifically reserved.

ADVERTISING COPY DEADLINES

The deadline for all copy is the first of the month preceding month of issue (e.g., April 1st for May 10th issue).

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 4
JULY 1990

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST is the Official Publication of The Virginia Numismatic Association, Inc. and is published six times each year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. All six issues are mailed from Hampton, Virginia at the Third Class Postal Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure and send us your change of address.

All mail relating to The Virginia Numismatist and Advertising therein should be directed to Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, Va. 23220.

Direct all other correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to the secretary-treasurer, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

This will be my last letter before our convention, which is just three months away. This will be our first at the new Richmond Centre, which hadn't yet been built when we held our last downtown Richmond show back in 1983. Be sure to mark the dates September 7-9 on your calendars, and plan to join us in Richmond for what promises to be a great show. Once again this year we will NOT send out a separate convention mailing. Your hotel reservation form and election ballot are enclosed in this issue of the magazine. Don't delay sending in

your reservation, for hotel rooms may become scarce later on, due to a big auto race the same weekend.

While you are mailing things, please mark and send in your election ballot. Participation of members in the election process is important, and VNA needs your support in this.

In addition to VNA's, there are several other shows coming up that you'll want to attend. The Roanoke Coin Club is holding one at the Roanoke Convention Center August 11-12, and the Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association convention and show will be held at the Virginia Beach Pavilion, October 19-21.

I'd like to thank the Shenandoah Valley Coin Club and the Tidewater Coin Club for their hospitality in hosting VNA board meetings at their shows. Having the board meeting at a show always increases board attendance, and we're grateful for your support.

Thanks also to the Benefactors and Donors who have contributed funds for the publication of the new revised edition of VIRGINIA OB-SOLETE PAPER MONEY. We are in need of still more, so if you haven't contributed, please give it your serious consideration.

Hope to see you in Richmond this September.

Sincerely

Greg Tucker
President

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1990 DUES?

Junior Member	\$ 2.00
Regular Member	\$ 7.00
Club or Organization	\$10.00

PLEASE SEND TO: Keith Littlefield, Sec.-Treas.
3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003

VNA CONVENTION NEWS

Our 32nd Annual Convention and Coin Show will be held this year in Richmond. The dates are Friday, September 7 through Sunday, September 9, 1990 (the weekend following Labor Day). The site is in the heart of downtown Richmond. The show will be at the Richmond Centre at Fifth and Marshall Streets. Convention Headquarters is the Days Inn Downtown at Seventh and Marshall Streets.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Your hotel reservation card is enclosed with this issue of THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST. Send it in promptly (there's also a big auto race that weekend), and be sure to indicate that you are attending the VNA Convention. The room rate, \$45.99 per night, includes the city tax.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the Virginia Numismatic Association will be held on Saturday, September 8, 1990. Location will be announced. Items of business to be considered include certification of officer elections, plans for the 1991 convention, and status of the new edition of the Affleck Catalog. All VNA members are welcome to attend.

BOURSE

The bourse will open to the public at 10 a.m. on all three days. Admission is free. If you are looking for material to add to your collection, this will be your opportunity. The dealers will be offering an extensive range of coins, tokens paper money, medals, etc. Whatever it is that you're looking for, you'll probably find it here, and at a reasonable price, too. Don't fail to visit all of the tables, and if you don't see what you are looking for, ask. Many of the dealers will have brought more stuff than they have room to display. The dealers will also be buying, so bring along your surplus items to sell or trade.

No insurance will be carried on either bourse materials or exhibits, but guard service will be maintained 24 hours a day in these two areas for the duration of the show.

EXHIBITS

Write to Exhibit Chairman James M. Beard, 317 Miller St., Lexington, VA 24450 to obtain exhibit forms and reserve space for your exhibit. Sharing your numismatic interests with others through an exhibit requires a great deal of work, but it is always worth the effort, so do plan to put in an exhibit.

As noted on the exhibit forms, VNA is unable to supply exhibit cases, and exhibitors are requested to bring their own.

No insurance will be carried on exhibits, or bourse materials but guard service will be maintained 24 hours a day in these two areas for the duration of the show.

CONVENTION PROGRAM

The sale of ads in the convention program helps with the show expenses, and we appeal to our members and friends to support VNA by taking an ad in this year's program. The cost is:

Full page, \$25.00

½ page, \$15.00

¼ page, \$7.50

You can be listed in the program as a patron for \$2.00. Send your ad copy and check to VNA, 712 Westover Rd., Richmond, VA 23220.

ANNUAL BANQUET

The banquet will be held Saturday evening following a cash bar social hour. After dinner the newly elected officers will be installed, awards will be presented, and we will hear an interesting address by our featured speaker. The number of banquet seats is limited, so be sure to purchase your dinner tickets at the time you register for the convention.

OUR DINNER SPEAKER

Our speaker this year is Mr. Neil A. Chiappa, who is a native of Richmond, and a long time collector of Confederate treasury notes and Virginia obsolete currency in general. He is a member of VNA, ANA, the Society of Paper Money Collectors, the Virginia Historical Society and the Confederate Memorial Literary Society. His topic will be "Currency in War-time Richmond, 1861-65".

RAG PICKERS GET TOGETHER

The annual meeting of the "Rag Pickers" will be held Saturday evening following the banquet. Location will be announced. This is a totally unstructured but always fascinating annual event. Many big names in the field of paper money collecting will be present, and the conversation is always stimulating. All who are interested in paper money in any way, shape or form should make it a point to attend.

VNA PUBLICATIONS

VNA publications on paper money, tokens, etc. will be offered for sale at the registration desk. Buy them at the show and save on postage.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership applications will be available at the registration desk. New members who join at the convention are paid up through the end of 1991, so urge your non-member friends to sign up. Members can pay their 1991 dues at the registration desk, which will save VNA the trouble and expense of sending a bill.

COME AND ENJOY

Come and bring your family, and urge your friends to come too. There are plenty of things in Richmond to keep everyone occupied during the weekend. The Federal Reserve Bank's Money Museum should be on your must see list. It is located at 701 East Byrd Street (between 7th and 8th Streets), down near the river. It is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and admission is free. This impressive collection of coins, paper money, etc. is well worth a special trip to Richmond just to see it, and it's something that both numismatists and non-numismatists will enjoy.

The following museums and historic spots are all within easy walking distance of the convention site: The Museum and White House of the Confederacy, the Valentine Museum, The Childrens Museum, the John Marshall House, the Maggie Walker House and the Virginia State Capitol.

A bit further afield, but still worth a visit are the National Battlefield

Park Visitors Center at 32nd and Broad Streets, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Virginia Historical Society both on North Boulevard. The Museum of Fine Arts has a choice collection of ancient Greek and Roman coins on display.

PARKING

The parking situation in downtown Richmond has in the past given rise to a certain amount of complaining, but things have changed quite a bit since we held our last convention here in 1983. The parking meter rate is 50¢ per hour, but meter fees are not required on Saturdays and Sundays. A number of parking lots and decks are located conveniently close to the Richmond Centre. These include the 7th & Marshall Deck (entrance on 7th Street) where the rate is 75¢ per hour with \$5 max.; the Park America lot on 5th St. directly behind the Richmond Centre, and another across 5th behind the Richmond Coliseum, rates for these is \$2.50 per day from 6am to 5pm. There is also a new Virginia Park deck at 5th and Marshall Streets directly across 5th Street from the Richmond Centre, and connected with the Centre by a covered bridge. It is open from 7am to 5pm, and the rate there is \$1.25 per hour, with a maximum of \$7.50.

Yes, you'll have to pay to park, unless you are lucky enough to find a curbside space, but don't let that deter you. After all, if you come prepared to spend substantial sums on coins, a few bucks for parking is no big deal, and Richmond rates are lower than in many places north of here.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, 1990

The Nominating Committee has reported the following slate of candidates for offices whose current terms expire in September 1990:

For Sergeant-at-Arms Robert W. Bunn, Newport News, Virginia.

For Board of Directors (VOTE FOR THREE)

James M. Beard, Lexington, Virginia

Stephen Bennett, III, Prince George, Virginia

Robert M. New, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina

Mervyn H. Reynolds, Newport News, Virginia

All members are urged to exercise their right to vote. Your ballot is enclosed with this issue of the magazine. Please mark it and return it promptly to the Secretary, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, VA 22003.

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following individuals have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association and will become members within 20 days from the mailing of this notice unless some adverse reaction is received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant

Sponsor

Neil A. Chiappa, Midlothian, Virginia Ginnie Aldridge

John Jurbala, Williamsburg, Virginia Mervyn H. Reynolds

Alan C. Nicol, Harrisonburg, Virginia Keith Littlefield

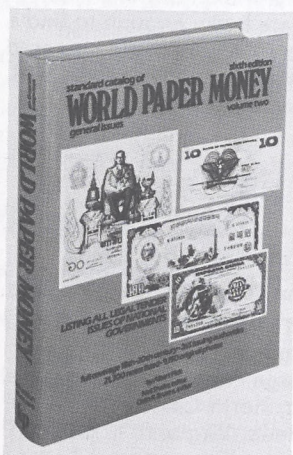
Roy C. Pollitt, Prince George, Virginia Keith Littlefield

THE STANDARD CATALOG OF WORLD PAPER MONEY VOLUME TWO, GENERAL ISSUES

Sixth Edition, by Albert Pick
Published by Krause Publications, Iola, WI
1136 pages, hardcover, price \$49.00

Ever since the publication in 1974 of the first edition, Albert Pick's Catalog of World Paper Money has stood alone in its field. Use of the term Standard in its title is not idle boast, for it is indeed the standard work on the subject, and the new sixth edition is in every way a worthy successor to the earlier editions. Like its predecessors, it is still the most comprehensive catalog of world paper money ever assembled.

The work lists more than 21,300 notes from 265 note-issuing authorities from the late 1600s to the present. More than 9750 notes are illustrated, and prices are given in up to three grades of preservation. Although new banknote issues do not proliferate to quite the same degree that postage stamps do, hundreds of new issues have appeared since the last edition, all of which are listed and priced. Many newly discovered signature varieties and dates of issue for earlier notes have also been added and priced. Chances are that prized note you've got that is "unlisted in Pick" now is.



Each listing provides catalog number, denomination, date (if known), color of face and back, brief description of the design, printer and valuations in three degrees of preservation. The catalog numbering system now seems to be firmly established; and it appears that there are only a few number changes from the last edition, and in such cases the old number is shown in parentheses below the new one. Number changes have in the past given rise to a bit of griping on the part of users, but new discoveries

have to be added in, which necessitates a certain amount of number changing, a slight inconvenience that must be borne for the sake of completeness.

Price changes are not nearly as numerous as might be expected, and increases and decreases are about equal in number. One surprise is the substantial drop in the prices of all grades of all three denominations of the popular 1896 Educational Series U.S. silver certificates. The \$5 note in UNC went from \$3500 to \$2300. On the other hand, the \$100 Legal Tender note of 1861 in UNC went from \$11,000 to \$20,000, and prices for all varieties of the 50 rupee "SEX" note of Seychelles in UNC have more or less doubled.

The new edition of course incorporates all of the useful tables of foreign numerals and dates, grading terminology, printers, etc.

All collectors and dealers in the field of world paper money will welcome the publication of this indispensable reference work, soon to be followed, we hope, by the new edition of Volume 1.

"OCCUPATION CURRENCY"

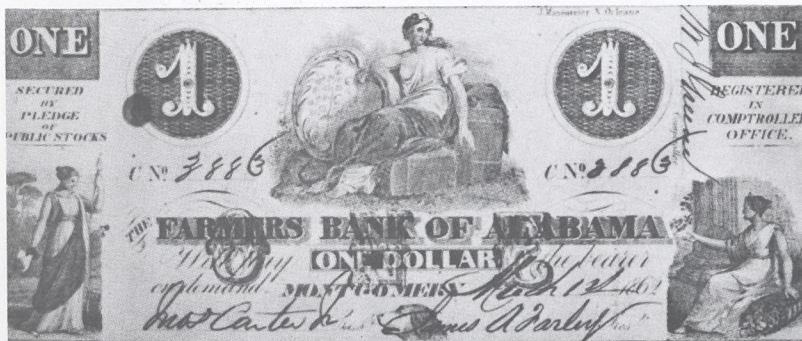
by Les Winners
VNA Life Member #55

In 1989 I was challenged to prepare an exhibit "on the spot". I had been on an extended business trip, and there was no time to prepare an exhibit for the 1989 VNA Convention at Tyson's Corner. My good friend (nameless) chided me for not bringing an exhibit to the convention, even though I had reserved two exhibit cases. Well, I accepted his friendly scolding as a challenge, and offered the following proposition: I would browse the bourse floor and in six hours assemble the material for an acceptable exhibit, OR dinner that evening would be my treat. With the deadline established, I was off to the bourse floor to begin my search for the appropriate notes for an "acceptable" exhibit. Well, I did not even have a topic in mind, but was confident that something appropriate would occur to me as I perused the dealer's stock abundantly available on the floor. After an hour or so it occurred to me that a great many of the bank names related to people's jobs (occupations), and this was the weekend after Labor Day. This was a real theme — labor and occupations. Why not, I thought, assemble a group of notes that would, at the very least, mention an occupation or a profession.

For the next three hours I hurriedly perused and purchased, and finally assembled the set of notes which are pictured in this article. Then I borrowed a typewriter and some paper from the hotel and went to my room to type the title cards for the exhibit. With the deadline fast approaching, and my nameless friend scanning the menu (looking only at the right side), I typed the cards, assembled the notes in a presentable fashion, and scurried back to the exhibit area to place them in the exhibit cases. The result was an acceptable exhibit titled: "OBSOLETE CURRENCY — HONORING HONORABLE OCCUPATIONS".

Since the 1989 Convention I have expanded on the occupation theme, and have added notes numbered 17 through 19. Of course, this is not intended as an all-inclusive occupations list.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to Jerry Schmidt, Claud Murphy and Corbett Davis for their friendly patience during my frantic search for notes. Their kindness and willingness to help the collector are outstanding.



FARMERS BANK OF ALABAMA, \$1, 1862



FARMERS BANK OF KENTUCKY, \$20, 1859



GEORGIA, FARMERS & MECHANICS BANK \$10, 1860



TENN, FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK, \$3, 1854



PA, LUMBERMENS BANK, \$5, 1835



PA, MANUAL LABOR BANKING HOUSE, \$50, 1838



GA, PLANTERS BANK, \$2, 1861

Continued on page 12

VIRGINIA OBSOLETE PAPER MONEY BOOK REVISION

The Virginia Numismatic Association needs **your help** in financing the publication of the revised Virginia Obsolete Paper Money. Plans are to have the book ready for distribution at the 1990 Annual Coin Show and Convention. This landmark reference will contain listings for all Virginia Treasury, County, City & Town, Private Scrip and Broken Bank known to date, in one volume. A new numbering system, valuation and rarity scale are complete and layout and typesetting has begun. The production run will consist of 2,000 copies printed with the initial 1,000 being bound. Estimates on material cost are \$12,000 with copies selling for approximately \$40-\$50 each.

5 The purpose of this letter is to solicit contributions from our membership. These contributions can be made in one of two ways: 1) a donation or 2) a benefactor investment.

1. A donation of \$25 or more will entitle giver to have their name published on one of the introductory pages as a member of the **Honor Roll of Supporters for Virginia Obsolete Paper Money Research**.

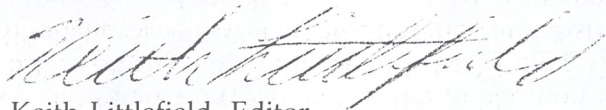
2. A benefactor can make an unsecured, no interest investment in the publication of the Virginia Obsolete Paper Money book in a sum of \$500 and up. Once the sale of the Virginia Obsolete Paper Money has paid outstanding expenses, additional proceeds will be proportioned and distributed back to the benefactors in equitable sums based on the ratio of the gift as a percentage of the benefactor fund. The **intent**, by the VNA, is to reimburse each benefactor for the full amount of their investment only. There is **no guarantee** that the benefactor will ever receive full reimbursement or partial reimbursement in any given time frame. It is also understood that the benefactor shall not hold the Virginia Numismatic Association, Officers, Board of Directors or any individual member responsible for repayment of contribution.

A separate accounting column has been established by the VNA Secretary/Treasurer for the Book Revision and separate quarterly reports will be submitted, in addition to the regular treasurers report, ~~once book sales are initiated~~. This activity will be tracked as a stand-alone activity and will not be offset or contribute to income or expenses from other VNA activities. Each benefactor will receive a special,

Revision and separate quarterly reports will be submitted, in addition to the regular treasurers report, ~~once book sales are initiated. This activity will be tracked as a standalone activity and will not be offset or~~ contribute to income or expenses from other VNA activities. Each benefactor will receive a special, limited edition, **presentation copy** of the book as consideration for their investment and risk in assuming the profitability of this endeavor.

Please fill out the following form and mail it with your contribution to Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Va. 22003. For more information call me at (703) 354-9544.

Thank you for your financial support,



Keith Littlefield, Editor
Virginia Obsolete Paper Money

(clip and send with contribution)

I _____ (print name) would like to make a contribution to the Virginia Numismatic Association to support the publication of Virginia Obsolete Paper Money. Check one:

☐ Donation \$ _____ (amount)

☐ Benefactor \$ _____ (amount)

_____ (sign) _____ (date)



SC, PLANTERS BANK OF FAIRFIELD, \$5, 1856



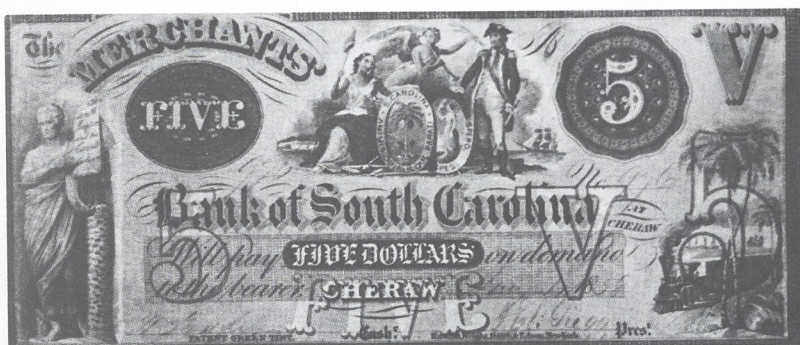
GA, THE MANUFACTURERS BANK, \$5, 1863



GA, THE MECHANICS BANK, \$20, 1858



TENN, THE MECHANICS BANK, \$5, 1854



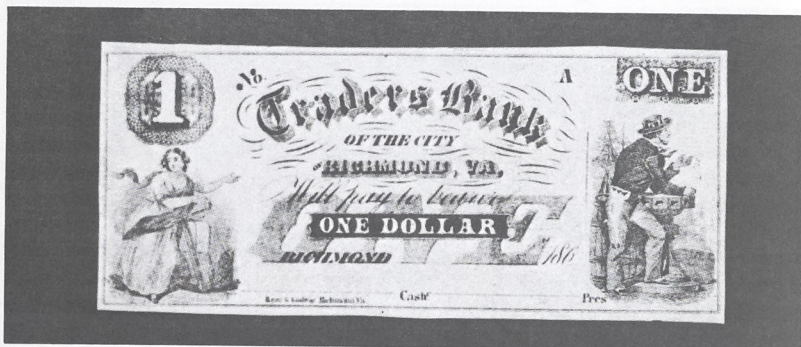
SC, MERCHANTS BANK OF SOUTH CAROLINA, \$5, 1858



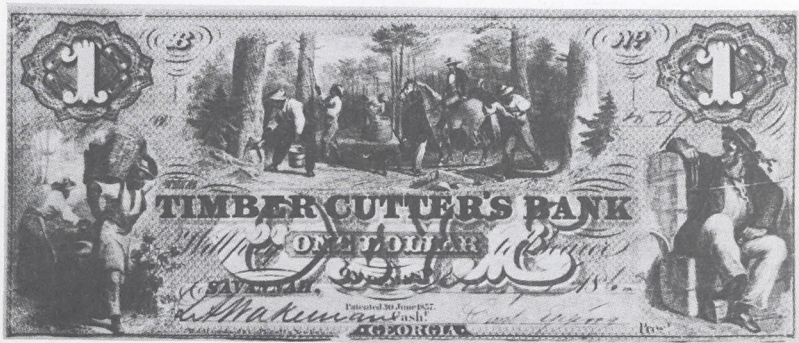
GA, MERCHANTS & PLANTERS BANK, \$20, 1860



NC, THE MINERS & PLANTERS BANK, \$10, 1860



VA, TRADERS BANK, \$1, 1861



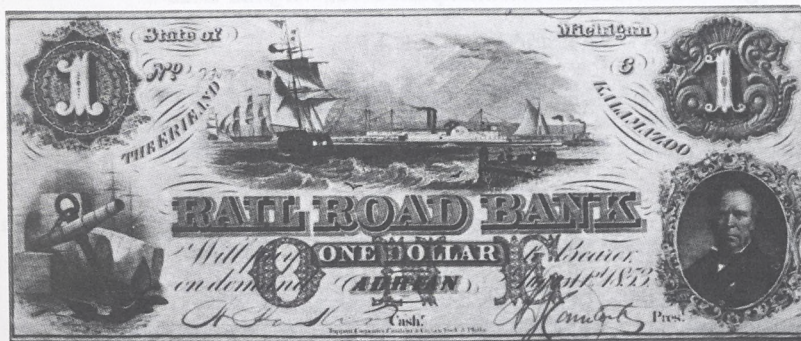
GA, THE TIMBER CUTTERS BANK, \$1, 1862



NEBR, WESTERN EXCHANGE FIRE & MARINE
INSURANCE COMPANY, \$3, 1857



GA, AUGUSTA INSURANCE & BANKING CO., \$2, 1864



MICH, ADRIAN & KALAMAZOO RAILROAD BANK, \$1, 1853

NEWS OF OUR CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB

The ACC meets at 8:00 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, Va.

MOUNTAINEER COIN CLUB

The MCC meets at 1 PM on the 1st Sunday of each month at Hardee's Restaurant, 376 High St., Morgantown, WV.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB

The RCC meets at 7:30 PM the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Signet Bank Building, 7 North 8th St. in Richmond. At the June meeting Ted Tarr spoke on collecting large cent varieties.

ROANOKE COIN CLUB

The RCC meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Roanoke City Library on Jefferson St.

SALEM COIN CLUB

The SCC meets on the 2nd Monday of each month in Room B of the Salem Civic Center at 7:30 PM.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB

The SVCC meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Mary Switzer Building, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, Virginia, at 7:30 PM. The May meeting featured an auction sale.

STONEWALL JACKSON COIN CLUB

The SJCC meets at 8:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 430 W. Pike St., Clarksburg, WV.

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The SVNA meets at 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month in the community room at Cavalier Square Shopping Center in Hopewell.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB

The TCC meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at the Lake Wright Motor Hotel on Northampton Blvd., Virginia Beach.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The WNS now meets at the DC Congregation Church, 3526 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. In May the WNS was treated to a presentation and display by Rick Lalone on collecting antique stock and bond certificates.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of each month at the War Memorial Museum in Newport News.

ANCIENT NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

Monthly meetings of the ANSW are held in the homes of members in D.C., Md. & Va. For information, write to Secretary W.E. McGovern, P.O. Box 2495, Gaithersburg, MD 20886.



SHOW CALENDAR

Aug. 11-12	Roanoke, VA Roanoke Convention Center	ROANOKE COIN CLUB
Aug. 22-26	Seattle, WA State Convention Center Seattle Sheraton Hotel	AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Sep. 6-9	Richmond, VA Convention Center	VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Sep. 28-30	Chattanooga, TN	BLUE RIDGE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Oct. 19-21	Virginia Beach, VA Va. Beach Pavilion	MIDDLE ATL. NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Nov. 23-25	Charlotte, NC Merchandise Mart	NORTH CAROLINA NUMISMATIC ASSOC.

SHOW CALENDAR POLICY

The Show Calendar lists shows in Virginia and neighboring states, plus ANA and MANA events wherever held. To have your show listed, send a notice to:

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WILL PAY \$100.00 for a copy of "Virginia Business Directory & Gazetteer" by Hill Directory Co., prior to 1930 except for 1906.
ELVIN B. MILLER, PO BOX 366, TOPPING, VA 23169

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PAUL E. GARLAND, RT. 6, BOX 330, LOUISVILLE, TN 37777

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JIM HARVEY, PO BOX 36167, RICHMOND, VA 23235

WANTED: Australia KM102a, 75, 85, 88, 93, 103, New Zealand KM 52, 53, 65, 65a, 66 and 66a.
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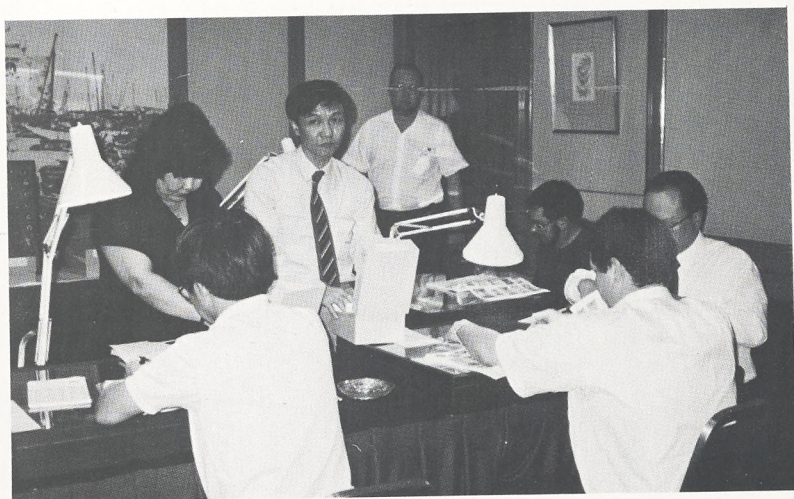
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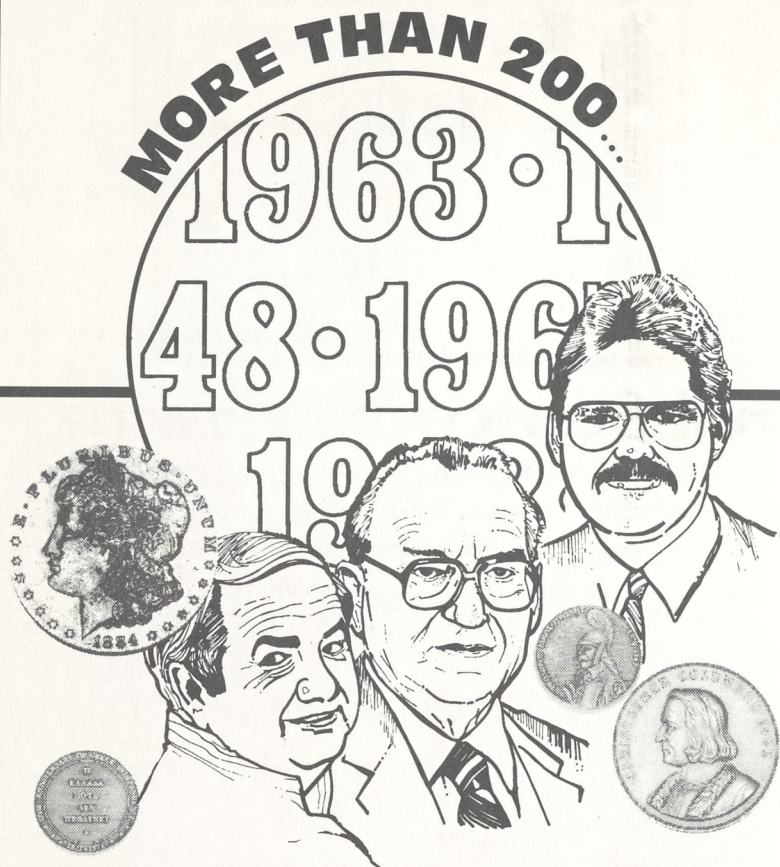


THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST



Mr Ma, Tak Wo Showing Auction Lots — Hong Kong

VOLUME 26
NUMBER 5
SEPTEMBER 1990



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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 5
SEPTEMBER 1990

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST is the Official Publication of The Virginia Numismatic Association, Inc. and is published six times each year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. All six issues are mailed from Hampton, Virginia at the Third Class Postal Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure and send us your change of address.

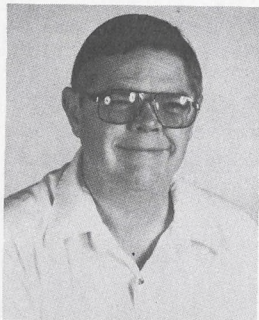
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Direct all other correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to the secretary-treasurer, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

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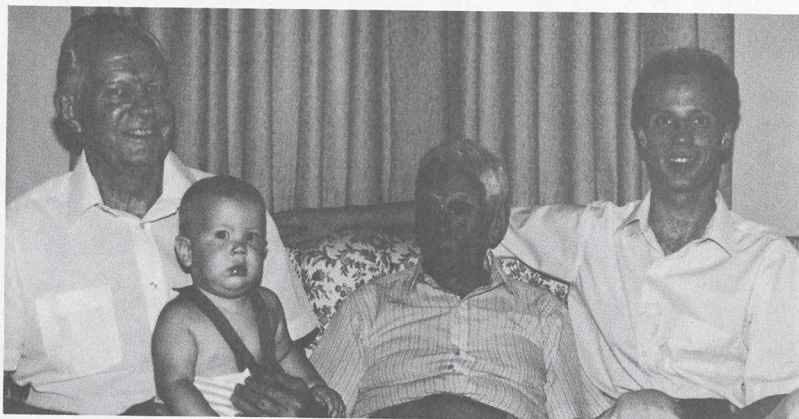
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to extend felicitations on behalf of the Virginia Numismatic Association to our oldest member, Mr. Ernest B. Thrasher of Roanoke, VNA Member No. 90, who celebrated his 100th birthday on June 22nd. Mr. Thrasher collects obsolete currency, and was a close friend of Charlie Affleck. He is also member No. 66 of the Salem Coin Club.



Here's a picture of four generations of the Thrasher family: Mr. Ernest B. Thrasher with his son, Ernest B. Thrasher, Jr., grandson Richard B. Thrasher and great grandson Richard B. Thrasher, Jr.

Mr. Thrasher, the entire membership of VNA joins me in sending warmest good wishes to you and yours.

Sincerely,

Greg Tucker
President

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NUMISMATIC OBSERVATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

A three-week tour involving numismatic contacts in four Southeast Asian countries hardly qualifies one to make an in-depth study of the subject in that region. However, even the most casual observations are revealing and portray a scenario there of rapid changes in our hobby.

Our trip, under the auspices of Richard Nelson and the Money Co., would take us to Hong Kong, with a side trip to Macau, then to Thailand, to Vietnam and back to Thailand. Richard and his attractive wife Marion pioneered the first Hong Kong International Coin Show in 1982 and have made it an annual reasonably priced extravaganza. The late spring show is also usually followed by an often adventurous visit to other of the region's exotic locales.

Ruth and I leave Los Angeles via Korean Air a few days ahead of the main group in an effort to visit old contacts and conduct a little business prior to the show's opening. This would prove to be at least a partial mistake. Six hours out of L.A., our 747 loses an engine and a nervous excited captain announces that we are diverting to Anchorage. An anxious hour and a half later, Alaska's welcome snow-capped peaks come into view. A couple of hours on the ground will be sufficient to effect engine repairs and get us back on the journey's first leg to Seoul, Korea. The late arrival there, however, precludes our being able to make the connecting flight to Hong Kong. Korean Air is kind enough to put us up for the night at a hotel in the mud flats near Inchon thirty miles from the airport. A full 24 hours are wasted before we finally depart Seoul for Hong Kong late in the evening. After an en-route stop in Taipei, we finally see the lights of Hong Kong as midnight approaches. A late sleep-in, a bountiful breakfast and a brief dip in the roof-top pool are attitude improving and fortify us for the business at hand.

In the past, the district of Hong Kong north of Kowloon Park had always been a prolific source of recently smuggled ancient Chinese coins. However, two previous contacts in the area have disappeared and the one small shop we find has sparse offerings. The next day proves to be more productive. In the course of viewing lots to be sold in the up-coming Money Co. auction, Richard introduces me to Mr. Ma who graciously provides me with names, addresses and phone numbers of contacts in nearby Macau. It is generally acknowledged that many of the coins smuggled out of China first make their appearance there before transshipment to the Hong Kong market.

The speedy one-hour jet-foil trip to the Portuguese colony is spiced by winning 50 Macau patacas with a scratch-off lottery ticket purchased from a stewardess soon after leaving Hong Kong territorial waters. U.S. citizens are no longer required to secure a Portuguese visa before visiting the colony, we embark in search of Mr. Chan whose name heads our list of recommendations. Mr. Ma's directions, written in Chinese, make it easy for our taxi driver; in less than ten minutes we have reached our destination.

Mr. and Mrs. Chan are most hospitable and despite language problems we are able to muddle through with a mixture of English and Mandarin Chinese. Mr. Chan produces a wide array of early Chinese coins including many rarities which I am able to purchase at advantageous prices. A final acquisition of about 300 pieces of obsolete Chinese paper money



Mr. Chan, Meng showing coins & paper money — Macau

culminate two and a half hours of polite bargaining. We regretfully decline Mr. Chan's kind invitation to dinner at a nearby restaurant as we must return to Hong Kong in time for a previously obligated Money Co. welcoming banquet for our group.

A word of caution is in order for those who aspire to coin-hunt in Macau. Go only to recommended reputable dealers such as Mr. Chan. There is a plethora of shops and souvenir stands in Macau which offer tempting "bargains" in silver crowns of the world as well as early Chinese coins. Counterfeits abound!

Back in Hong Kong, a gala evening is highlighted by the farewell performance of Colin Wood and the Royal Hong Kong Police Band as well as the traditional pre-convention sumptuous feast.

The next day we get down to the serious business of setting up our table for the coin show. That first evening is for dealers only. And, although there are a number of transactions, it is evident that much of the excitement and vibrancy of previous Hong Kong shows is missing. This carries over to Friday morning when the bourse floor is first opened to the public. The relatively small crowd waiting at the door is in stark contrast to the impatient throngs which strained to gain admittance in previous years. The Hong Kong dealers I later converse with almost unanimously concur that the Hong Kong coin market suffered a tremendous decline following last year's Tian a-men Square incident in Beijing. Apprehension over Hong Kong's reversion to mainland China in 1997 has prompted an unrelenting outflow of skilled, educated and affluent citizens from the British colony. Nevertheless, some specialized areas do well at the show. Dealers in foreign paper money report good sales and others conduct significant business with long time customers cultivated in previous years. Collecting old watches is also a popular hobby in Hong Kong, and those dealers who have this sideline seem to draw the largest crowds to their tables.

Though retail coin sales are generally slow, there are numerous opportunities to make good purchases from smugglers purveying their wares on the bourse floor. However, some material seen in quantity in previous

years seems to be in very short supply — notably U.S. trade dollars and Spanish pieces of eight.



Ceylon Plantation
token c/s on
U.S. Large cent

The Money Co. auction is another bright spot. The diverse nature of the material offers opportunities for collectors and dealers throughout the numismatic spectrum. I make several good acquisitions of English and other European crowns, Chinese paper and a few U.S. coins. One purchase of particular interest is a U.S. large cent which had been countermarked for use on a Ceylon plantation. An unusual feature of Richard's auctions is that there is no buyer's fee—almost unheard of these days.

Every Hong Kong show has many interesting sidelights and this year would prove to be no exception. Being an international show, there are always dealers from many parts of the world in attendance — often from opposite ends of the political spectrum. The table to our immediate left is manned by official representatives of the Peoples Democratic Republic of North Korea — one of the most unyielding and dogmatic of all communist countries. Their wares consist mainly of quantity lots of North Korean coins and paper money. Across the room, disaffected anti-communist Chinese students display old Chinese silver dollars for sale which are counterstamped with a crossed out hammer and sickle. On Sunday night, the closing of the show is crowned with yet another memorable banquet with entertainment provided by a Philippine country and western band.

Monday morning comes quickly and we are up before 5 AM to prepare for the trip's next segment. The Thai Airways flight to Bangkok is uneventful, and after checking our coins into customs bond, we have time to catch up on our sleep at the plush Airport Hotel before the next banquet



Mr. A.K. Jain, Official Rep. for North Korean Coins



Anti Communist Students selling Freedom Dollars

later that evening. A pleasant sidelight of the event features a welcome by members of the Thai Numismatic Society. They bring us gifts of the organization's tie-tacs as well as maps and guide books which are accompanied by briefings on the attractions of Bangkok.

Following the party, many of us retire to a fitful sleep anticipating what the morrow will bring. At least we can linger in bed a little longer in the morning because our hour and a half flight to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) takes off at a civilized early afternoon time.

Again the flight is uneventful and most of it is taken up with a bite of lunch and the laborious filling out of the detailed Vietnamese customs forms. As we land at Ton Son Nhut, a feeling of *deja vu* comes flooding back. The old gun revetments and bunkers are still there — only this time empty and decaying instead of bristling with AA guns as I had seen them during my previous landing at this site in 1967. Our processing through customs in the tropical heat is slow and tedious and we are pleased to leave the oppressive terminal and board a somewhat air conditioned bus to our hotel in downtown Saigon. Along the way our guide points out the red-starred North Vietnamese tank on display which had crashed its way into the palace grounds resulting in the capture of many of the South Vietnamese governing body still in session as the communists occupied the city in 1975.

In many ways to visit Vietnam today is to step back in time about 25 years or more. A stagnated economy is the legacy of years of war and a repressive communist regime which only recently began to ease private enterprise restrictions enough to permit economic growth. New construction is virtually at a standstill with the exception of a few foreign and jointly financed projects. The large significant buildings are primarily relics of French and later American influence. Motorcycles, bicycles and pedicabs are still the primary modes of transport with the relatively few modern automobiles owned by foreigners or government agencies. In the countryside, donkey or oxen carts are still frequently seen.

Numismatic opportunities abound in central Saigon — with coins, medals and paper money to be seen in numerous shops. Chinese and

Annamese bronze cash pieces are seen in profusion as well as French Indo-China piastres and other foreign coins. The U.S. trade dollars seem to be mostly cast counterfeits although an occasional genuine piece is sometimes found. In addition, hawkers by the dozens offer albums of coins, stamps and paper money to passersby. One of the Vietnamese girls selling these items outside the hotel has blue eyes; she states that her father is an American. The albums being offered are virtually identical to those offered by U.S. servicemen twenty years ago during the war and are probably no more expensive. Paper money albums with about thirty different examples or a book of twenty or more coins can be had for about \$2.50 U.S. Unfortunately, however, those who aspire to major numismatic deals face numerous obstacles in the form of various export restrictions as well as U.S. import regulations against trade with Vietnam. No precious metal coins or those considered "antiques" can be taken out of the country legally. There is local hope and optimism that some normalization of U.S.-Vietnamese ties will occur within the next two years — a step which would at least partially remove the obstacles facing the visiting avaricious coin collector.



Street Vendor of Money & Stamps, Saigon

For those whose numismatic pursuits are more scholarly, the National Museum in Ho Chi Minh City has a respectable display of coins tracing the country's numismatic history.

Concerning modern Vietnamese currency used in day to day transactions, there are several interesting observations. Only paper money circulates; there are no coins. The largest denomination note is 5000 dong. With an exchange rate of 4850 dong to the U.S. dollar, the difficulty in conducting any major transaction is readily apparent. Imagine trying to do business in the U.S. with no piece of currency greater than \$1.00 face and without a viable credit card system. Although Albert Pick's "World Paper Money" lists a 10,000 dong note, none are seen to circulate. The smallest denomination I personally receive in change is the 50 dong note (about one cent). Although, at the Bank For Foreign Trade, we are shown one dong note — about 1/50th of a U.S. cent. That must be a record for any currently circulating paper money. When the teller is asked if one can ex-

change larger notes for some of them, she tosses a couple of dozen on the counter and tells us to take them for free. When is the last time you walked into a bank and received free money? We later discover that major purchases are transacted on the gold standard. For example, a top of the line Honda motor scooter is priced at about three taels of gold. (The Vietnamese tael is equal to about one and a third troy ounces).

Throughout the country there are many reminders of the late conflict. The War Museum in Saigon comes down hard on the United States displaying captured arms and pictures of "U.S. atrocities". Of numismatic interest are wads of South Vietnamese currency in display cases. Other conflicts, including the one against the French and more lately, the Chinese, are also represented by captured weapons, war photos and an occasional piece of currency.

MPC left behind by departing Americans is also available in the local market place. Merchants seem familiar with relative values of differing varieties, but they are not knowledgeable in judging condition.

A trip into the countryside, while fascinating, adds only marginally to our numismatic knowledge. It, however, graphically brings back memories of a war in which so many lost their lives. We visit the labyrinth of Viet Cong tunnels at Cu Chi 70 kilometers northwest of Saigon. En-route, we stop at a Viet Cong cemetery where 5,000 of their dead are interred. At Cu Chi, a Vietnamese Army captain briefs us on the construction, begun in 1948, of the 200 kilometers of interconnected tunnels and the strategically important role they played. A thorn in the side of the U.S. and her allies throughout the war, it was from these tunnels that the Tet offensive was launched in 1968; they also provided strong support for the final North Vietnamese push to Saigon in 1975. Following the briefing, we are taken on a short trek through the jungle and permitted to enter and examine the tunnels where thousands of V.C. lived and operated from for so many years.

Our activity-filled three days in Vietnam pass quickly, and as departure time approaches, many of our group fret over some of the jewelry they forgot to declare on arrival — or over the coins and watches, purchased in Saigon, which they now hope to get past Vietnamese Customs. Most fears are unfounded, however, and after a couple of hours in the stifling Ton Son



One Dong — Worth about 1/50 of a U.S. Cent



Vietnamese 5000 Dong Note

Nhut terminal we are finally processed through customs to the departure lounge which mercifully is air-conditioned. We are most thankful for this as our Thai Airways jet is two hours late. Time passes though, and an audible cheer of relief erupts from some of our group as the aircraft lifts from the runway.

Back in Bangkok, we settle into the brand new Holiday Inn with a sense of relief — especially as many of our group have come down with a variety of maladies contracted in Saigon. The ensuing three days feature more parties, forays to local markets, temples and ancient ruins, and a museum tour featuring coins which depict Thailand's numismatic history. Enough cannot be said of the friendliness and unstinting assistance provided to us by the Thai Numismatic Society. They not only host a wonder-

ful dinner but also serve as guides utilizing their private vehicles and free time to show many of our group the wonders of Bangkok. There is also time for coin shopping, and I am able to purchase some odd and curious northern Thai tribal silver items from long-time friend Mr. Lee and his lovely wife.



Mr. & Mrs. Lee,
Bangkok

Overall, the numismatic climate in Southeast Asia varies significantly from country to country — an aspect we find intriguing and which enlivens the imaginative and innovative tours Richard Nelson perennially offers. Somewhere along the way there is always something for every collecting taste.

VIRGINIA OBSOLETE PAPER MONEY

Book Revision Update

Our fund raising efforts over the past 6 months have been very fruitful. We currently have \$7,015 in the book fund. The breakout is as follows: \$1,500 initially set aside by VNA board action, \$4,500 from 7 benefactors who gave \$500 or more and \$1,015 from 30 donors of \$25 and up. At least five further benefactors are expected to contribute in the near future, but this will still leave us about \$3,000 short of our goal of the \$12,000 needed to cover material cost. We hope that those who have been undecided about contributing, will decide to do so. To those who have already contributed, we thank you for your support.

Progress on the book itself has also been very fruitful, but we are still a little short of our goal. We have examined numerous private collections plus those of the Western Reserve Historical Society, the Virginia Historical Society, the Smithsonian and the Confederate Museum. About 40 rolls of film have been shot to add to our photo holdings. Virginia Treasury, City & Town and County issues are essentially complete, and typesetting is in progress. Organization of the Private Scrip section is nearly complete. Banks have been by far the most difficult section to revise, and this section was essentially complete when an unexpected opportunity further additions came up, which it would be remiss to ignore.

Our goal was to have the book ready for distribution at the VNA Convention this September, but we have learned that the archives of the American Bank Note Company are to be sold at auction by Christie's over an eighteen month period starting in September. Due to the sheer volume of ABNC's holdings, limited research staff and limitless requests for information, data on any given specialty has been very difficult to obtain. Occasional nuggets of information on Virginia banks could be gleaned from displays put together for major shows, but, prior to this public sale, a comprehensive accounting of ABNC's work for Virginia banks has been sorely lacking.

Prior to the public announcement of the auction we contacted James Lamb, who heads the cataloging staff at Christie's, and scheduled a trip in May to review the holdings. Cataloging has, however, taken longer than anticipated, and work on the Virginia section will not be finished until late July, after which we plan a visit. As those of you who follow the paper money field are aware, The American Bank Note Company absorbed many of the smaller pre-Civil War engraving companies, and we really don't know what we'll find.

Whatever we turn up will need to be included in VIRGINIA OBSOLETE PAPER MONEY. We are fortunate that the timing has allowed us to capitalize on this unexplored reserve of information, which will more than compensate for the delay in publication. In keeping with VNA tradition this book will be the landmark Virginia reference to serve collectors and dealers in good stead for the next twenty years, as did Charlie Affleck's original work.

Any questions or additional contributions can be sent to Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, VA 22003.

Keith Littlefield and Richard Jones
Editors

THE COIN ATLAS

by Joe Cribb, Barrie Cook & Ian Carradice

Published by Fact on File, Inc.

460 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016

337 Pages, hardcover, price \$40.00

The authors, Messers. Cribb, Cook and Carradice, all numismatic curators at the British Museum, have produced in a single volume an overview of world coinage from its origin in the seventh century B.C. right down to the present day. Reading through it brings to mind what Jim Hawkins in Stevenson's *TREASURE ISLAND* said of Captain Flint's treasure: "...nearly every variety of money in the world must, I think, have found a place in that collection...", for coins of every country and every era are represented, from the earliest issues of ancient Ionia and Lydia to the 1987 coins of such place as Zambia.

Although written for the non-specialist, *THE COIN ATLAS* will also appeal to all, including specialists, who have a broad interest in coinage. It will also appeal to all who are interested in world history, for coins, the most plentiful surviving artifacts of ancient and medieval times, can shed much light on the artistic, religious, economic and political life of the countries which produced them.

The book is illustrated with over 1,100 photographs and drawings, and 100 maps. Hundreds of choice coins from the British Museum collection are illustrated, all actual size, many in color.

The arrangement is the most novel feature of the book, for the geographic boundaries are those of the modern nations of the world. For example, under Turkey the coins presented include the early Lydian and Persian issues, Greek coins of Asia Minor, Roman and Greek Imperial coins of mints within the borders of modern Turkey, Byzantine, Armenian, Seljuq, Mongol and Ottoman coins, and the issues of the Turkish Republic. Although the coverage of individual areas is necessarily brief, the authors have excelled not only in packing a lot of useful information within a limited scope, but also in doing it in a most interesting and readable fashion.

If you like coins you will want to own this book; if you do not, browsing through it will probably make you a convert.

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following individuals have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, and will become members within 20 days from the mailing of this notice unless some adverse reaction is received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant

Richard N. Stratton, Williamsburg, Virginia	Page Mann
Wesley E. Sawyer, Chester, Virginia	Jim Ruehrmund
Roger E. Thomas, Reston, Virginia	Keith Littlefield

Sponsor

Applicant for Junior Membership

Cary McF. Bowmer, Richmond, Virginia	Jim Ruehrmund
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NEWS OF OUR CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB

The ACC meets at 8:00 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, Va.

BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB

The BRCC meets at 7:30 PM on the last Tuesday of each month at 105 North 1st St., in Charlottesville. In July members watched a video on Grading U.S. Coins, and held an auction sale.

MOUNTAINEER COIN CLUB

The MCC meets at 1 PM on the 1st Sunday of each month at Hardee's Restaurant, 376 High St., Morgantown, WV.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB

The RCC meets at 7:30 PM the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Signet Bank Building, 7 North 8th St. in Richmond. At the July meeting the club made plans for helping with the VNA show, and held a member bourse.

ROANOKE COIN CLUB

The RCC meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Roanoke City Library on Jefferson St.

SALEM COIN CLUB

The SCC meets on the 2nd Monday of each month in Room B of the Salem Civic Center at 7:30 PM.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB

The SVCC meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Mary Switzer Building, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, Virginia, at 7:30 PM. In July they held a business meeting and an auction sale.

STONEWALL JACKSON COIN CLUB

The SJCC meets at 8:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 430 W. Pike St., Clarksburg, WV.

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The SVNA meets at 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month in the community room at Cavalier Square Shopping Center in Hopewell.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB

The TCC meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at the Lake Wright Motor Hotel on Northampton Blvd., Virginia Beach.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The WNS meets at the DC Congregation Church, 3526 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The club will meet again in Spetember after a summer recess.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of each month at the War Memorial Museum in Newport News.

ANCIENT NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

For information, write to Secretary W.E. McGovern, P.O. Box 2495, Gaithersburg, MD 20886.

MANA CONVENTION & COIN SHOW

The Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association will hold its 38th annual Coin Convention October 19, 20 & 21, 1990, at the Virginia Beach Pavilion, Virginia Beach, Va. In addition to the bourse, the event will feature door prizes, exhibits, and a Young Numismatists Program; admission is free. An auction sale will be conducted on Friday the 19th, and Saturday the 20th by Frank and Laurese Katen. An Educational Program will be presented at 4 p.m. on Saturday, with Thomas Sebring as moderator, and the Award Breakfast will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday.

For information on tables, call General Chairman Malcolm Gutterman at (804) 627-1095.



SHOW CALENDAR

Sep. 28-30	Chattanooga, TN Quality Inn, East Ridge	BLUE RIDGE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Oct. 14	Towson, MD Quality Inn	Towson Coin Show
Oct. 19-21	Virginia Beach, VA Va. Beach Pavilion	MIDDLE ATL. NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Oct. 26-28	Greenville, SC Hyatt Regency	SOUTH CAROLINA NUMISMATIC ASSOC.
Nov. 18	Towson, MD Quality Inn	Towson Coin Show
Nov. 23-25	Charlotte, NC Merchandise Mart	NORTH CAROLINA NUMISMATIC ASSOC.
Dec. 16	Towson, MD Quality Inn	Towson Coin Show

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GINNIE ALDRIDGE, 515 PINEHURST AVENUE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

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VNA, 515 PINEHURST AVE., COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834

WANTED: Civil War Sutler Tokens & Store Cards of Va. & W.Va. merchants, obsolete & county scrip of western Virginia. Please write:

HAL WALLS, P.O. BOX 2002, WHITE SULFUR SPRINGS, WV 24986, or call (304) 645-2441

DID YOU KNOW?

The archaic word "ye", which we still encounter in cutsie signs, like "Ye Olde Shoppe", or on colonial notes as "By Order of ye General Court", is pronounced "the", not "ye". This form of the word originated with early printers, who used the letter Y as a substitute for the old English letter "thorn", which sounds like "th", and looks something like a Y with its right arm in the form of a loop. It was used to save space, and on many old documents both the "the" and "ye" forms can be found in the same text. Sometimes the "ye" is further shortened by placing the e within the arms of the y.

There is, however, another "ye" which is pronounced just as it appears. This one is an archaic form of the pronoun "you", as in "Hear Ye, Hear Ye", or "Come All Ye Faithful". This may confuse some of us today, but it gave the folks back in the eighteenth century no trouble at all; they could readily tell which was which from the context, and so can we.

Still another peculiarity of old time printing mystifies modern readers, who wonder why they used f in place of s. The answer is that they didn't. Two forms of s were used, depending on the space available. The upright form looks, at first glance, like an f, but if you look close, you'll see that the arm of an s points to the left instead of to the right as that of the f does.



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THE VIRGINIA
NUMISMATIST



VOLUME 26
NUMBER 6
NOVEMBER 1990



...miles. That's how far our numismatic staff has traveled in the last year to promote the coin collecting hobby.

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The deadline for all copy is the first of the month preceding month of issue (e.g., April 1st for May 10th issue).

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 6
NOVEMBER 1990

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST is the Official Publication of The Virginia Numismatic Association, Inc. and is published six times each year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. All six issues are mailed from Hampton, Virginia at the Third Class Postal Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure and send us your change of address.

All mail relating to The Virginia Numismatist and Advertising therein should be directed to Jim Ruehrmund, Editor, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, Va. 23220.

Direct all other correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to the secretary-treasurer, Keith Littlefield, 3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello Again,

Another convention has come and gone, and everyone was enthusiastic about the fine turnout. I'd like to thank all of those who worked so hard to make it happen, especially Keith Littlefield, Jim Harvey, Jim and Marge Beard, Marge Hannah, Ginnie Aldridge, Wesley Sawyer, the Richmond Coin Club members who worked at the front desk, and anyone else I may have overlooked. Next year's show and convention will be bigger and better, and will be held at the same place, the Richmond Centre. The Marriott Hotel will be contacted to see if we might

get a little consideration if we use their hotel as the convention site.

It's a pleasure to welcome two newly organized clubs to membership in VNA. First, in the Martinsville/Henry County area there's the Piedmont Coin Club. Its president is Norman Fitzwater, and the secretary is Rickie Fulcher. The club has about 40 members and meets at 7:00 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Collinsville YMCA in Collinsville, Va. For those seeking further information, the mailing address is: Piedmont Coin Club, P.O. Box 418, Collinsville, VA 24078.

Next we have the new Williamsburg Coin Club. Its president is Duane McSmith, past president of VNA, and the secretary is Page Mann. The WCC meets at 7:00 pm on the first Friday of each month at Mortimer's Locksmith Shop in Norge, Va. To get there, take the Norge exit on I-64. For information, write to Page Mann at P.O. Box 1684, Williamsburg, VA 23187-1684.

We hope that both of these new clubs will grow and prosper as they make the pleasure of numismatics available to a wider audience.

I've noticed a little more action in the collectors arena now that the summer is past. Many of our member clubs are scheduling fall shows. The MANA show was October 19, 20 and 21. Salem is having their fall show Nov. 10 and 11. The Waynesboro show is scheduled for March. Be sure to watch our calendar for the show nearest you, and support the clubs by attending.

My second year as your president is off and running. Plans are in motion for the next convention. I've been married 10 months now, and everything is looking good. Thanks again for your support this past year. Since the Holiday Season is just around the corner, I'll close by wishing each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely, Greg Tucker, President

DUES ARE DUE

Junior Member	\$ 2.00
Regular Member	\$ 7.00
Club or Organization	\$10.00

PLEASE SEND TO: Keith Littlefield, Sec.-Treas.
3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003

VNA's 32nd ANNUAL CONVENTION

Our 1990 Show at the Richmond Centre was a thoroughly enjoyable affair, but I've yet to attend one that wasn't. Fifty dealers were on hand, all busily exchanging old money for new. Total attendance was about 750. This represents a fifty percent increase over last year, largely due to the splendid feature write-up in the "Weekender" section of the RICHMOND NEWS LEADER, arranged by Wesley Sawyer, and written by Cynthia McMullen, to both of whom many thanks. Thanks are also due to WRVA Radio's Alden Aaroe, and to columnist Jimmy Packard for publicizing the show. Not to be forgotten for special thanks are Marge Beard and Marge Hannah who managed the registration desk so efficiently, and the members of the Richmond Coin Club who assisted them.

The show attracted visitors from all over Virginia, and from neighboring states too. Most of our old reliables were there, including Jimmy Johnson and Howard Spain, whom we've missed the past several years. There were plenty of new faces as well, and VNA signed up eight new members. Burnett Anderson of Krause Publications was also with us, and the free samples of Krause products which he distributed were most welcome.

At the banquet Saturday evening, Les Winners, who comes all the way from Mississippi to be with us, once again held forth in fine style as Master of Ceremonies. The Days Inn served us a delightful roast beef dinner, with vegetables cooked to everyone's taste. Following dinner, after the door prizes, donated by Don Apte, Bob Nolan and Jerry Schmidt, were handed out, the following awards were presented:

OUTSTANDING AWARDS

David Armstrong. Roman Women on Coins

Larry Booth. Radar and Block Number Notes

Jim Ruehrmund. Hoyer & Ludwig, Confederate Printers

BEST OF SHOW

Jim Harvey. Midlothian Scrip

CHARLES AFFLECK AWARD

Les Winners. Protecting the Currency

There were also four non-competitive exhibits which deserve recognition:

Dell Haymaker. Love Tokens

Ray Haymaker. Primitive Money

Richard Jones. Rupert's Note Comes Home

Page Mann. Virginia Tokens

Following the exhibit awards, Len Harsel, President of the Washington Numismatic Society, made the first presentation of the Walt Mason Award for numismatic achievement, which went to Mr. John R. Eshbach of Lancaster, Pa. The award recognizes Mr. Eshbach's continuing and enthusiastic involvement in numismatics at the local, state and national levels, covering a period of more than thirty years. Since Mr. Eshbach was on a trip to Alaska and could not be present, the award was accepted for him by Mr. Jerry Kochel of the Red Rose Coin Club of Lancaster, Pa.

On completion of the awards, the following newly elected VNA offi-

cers were installed: Sergeant-at-Arms, Robert W. Bunn and Directors James M. Beard, Stephen Bennett, III and Robert M. New.

Les Winners introduced our guest speaker, David Schenkman, VNA member #69, who treated us to a rousing good talk on Richmond and Petersburg tokens, illustrated with color slides of some choice specimens from his own collection.

After dinner the Rag Pickers held their annual get together with lots of the high sachems of rag pickery present. Unfortunately, Doug Ball had to leave early, but Grover Criswell, Corbett Davis, Ray Williamson, Len Harsel, Claud & Judith Murphy, et.al. were there to discuss the joys of collecting paper money, a branch of the hobby that is still mercifully free of nit picking grading standards and rapacious investors.

Thanks to the hard work of General Chairman Greg Tucker, Exhibits Chairman Jim Beard and Bourse Chairmen Keith Littlefield and Jim Harvey, we had a great convention. We can now look forward to next year's event, which will be at the Richmond Centre again, the weekend following Labor Day, 1991, so mark your calendars now.



Front Desk. Dell Haymaker,
Ginnie Aldridge, Marge Beard



A busy bourse



First table by the door
Imperial Coins — Jerry & Ruthie



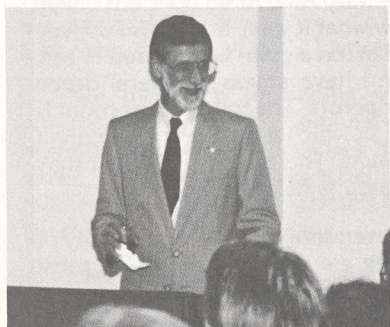
Good stuff for
young collectors



Judith Murphy and
Burnett Anderson



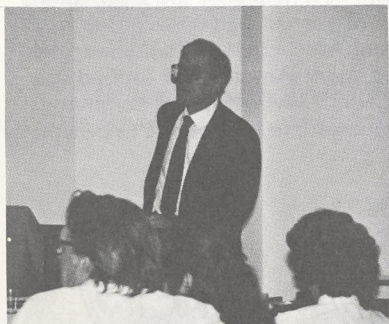
Social Hour



Emcee Les Winners



Award to Jim Harvey
and Les Winners



Speaker Dave Schenkman



President Greg with
Directors Bennett, New & Beard

COLLECTING ROMAN WOMEN

by David Armstrong

Sounds like an inviting title? It doesn't mean that I have several Italian girl friends. It does signify one topical approach to collecting ancient Roman coins.

Why a topical approach? Several years ago I happened to purchase several Roman coins. I talked to friends, one of whom is a dealer, about collecting, and even bought a copy of David R. Sear's book **ROMAN COINS AND THEIR VALUES**. The problem was that the scope of Roman coinage is so great, so broad, that I could not really get a handle on collecting objectives. Some of the "normal" topical approaches, such as the Twelve Caesars, legionary coins, reverse types, etc., were known to me, but the coins were either too expensive or did not hold my interest. They were not "mine", and I could not identify with them.

Then, one day at a flea market I bought another Roman coin, took it home and identified it as a coin of Salonina, wife of the Emperor Gallienus, who reigned in the mid-third century A.D. At \$5.00 it was cheap enough (the dealer apparently didn't know what it was), and it also appealed to me. So the next time a Roman woman (on a coin) was offered to me, the collection idea was born. Since then I have amassed several dozen such "Roman women", mostly wives of emperors. The following account is limited to the coins in my own collection, in which a little less than half of the coins of Roman women are represented. The rest are so rare I may never be able to obtain them, but the search is half of the fun.

These are all collectible specimens, even though they aren't really of investment quality (whatever that is). They are usually quite worn, most have some corrosion, but all are identifiable. The fact that they were originally struck in high relief makes most Roman coins easy to identify even when they are very worn.

One of the Roman women is a girl friend: Cleopatra. She is in the collection even though she is not Roman and the coin is Egyptian. I figure that Marc Antony's girl (and later wife) belongs there. And, as expected she is expensive. You can pay close to \$1000 or more for a Roman coin with her portrait, but the Egyptian ones, while not exactly cheap, are affordable.

There is also Livia, wife of the great Augustus. Everyone who has read history knows of Augustus, who defeated Mark Antony and unified the Roman empire after the death of Julius Caesar. Livia, and her conniving, manipulative ways are known to anyone who watched the public television



Cleopatra



Livia



Antonia



Sabina



Faustina
Senior



Faustina
Junior

series **I, Claudius**, or read the book of the same title. She was the mother of Tiberius who succeeded Augustus. You probably remember Tiberius as the emperor during whose reign the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ occurred. Livia's coins are expensive. But you can probably obtain a collectible dupondius (a large bronze coin) for \$60-100 if you are patient.

Next there is Antonia, younger daughter of Mark Antony. Antonia was the mother of Claudius (the same as mentioned above), who was considered a "good" emperor, between the outrageous reigns of Caligula and Nero. A dupondius of Antonia should be available (with patience) for about the same price as a Livia. To give you a chronological framework, Cleopatra died in 30 B.C., Livia in A.D. 29 and Antonia in A.D. 38.

We move on to Sabina who married Hadrian, another "good" emperor, in A.D. 100. Sabina's portrait with her very stern expression reminds me of Queen Victoria's. Sabina can be had for \$30-60 in bronze or silver. The silver coin is a denarius, but the size of a dime, but a bit thicker. There are many varieties of her coins, so that if you wish you could specialize in coins of Sabina.

Next, there are Faustina Senior and Faustina Junior, respectively the wife and daughter of Antoninus Pius who was also considered a good emperor. Faustina Junior grew up to marry Marcus Aurelius, a "careful, generous and conscientious" emperor in the "evening of Rome's greatness". Both Faustinas are commonly found in dealer stocks and can be had in bronze and silver for \$20 up. Worthy of mention here is Faustina Junior's daughter, Lucilla, wife of Lucius Verus. Lucilla, who appears pert and lively as compared to her mother and grandmother, is very affordable at \$15 and up. Then, there is Crispina, who married Faustina Junior's son, Commodus, who had her put to death in A.D. 183. A coin of Crispina is a bargain at \$20 and up.

Next there are the women of the Severan Dynasty, named for Septimius Severus, who reigned from A.D. 192 to 211. His wife was Julia



Lucilla



Crispina



Julia Domna



Plautilla



Julia
Maesa



Julia
Mamaea

Domna, who unfortunately gave birth to the infamous Caracalla. Caracalla married Plautilla, but later had her murdered. There is also Julia Domna's sister, Julia Maesa, who instigated a rebellion that reinstated the Severan Dynasty. She was the grandmother of two emperors, Elagabalus and Severus Alexander. She died early in the latter's reign, during which his mother, Julia Mamaea, was the real power behind the throne. Julia Mamaea and her son were both murdered in A.D. 235 by mutinous soldiers. All of these Roman women are available for \$25-45, and up.

Otacia Severa, wife of Philip I, is found on a coin denomination not previously mentioned in this article, the antoninianus, a coin slightly larger than the denarius, whose silver content is often no more than a silver wash. She, as well as many other Roman women, is also found on billon tetradrachms from the mint of Alexandria, Egypt. These are thick coins with rough edges and a very low silver content. However, demand for these coins is relatively low, allowing even scarce emperors and empresses to be purchased at quite reasonable prices. After Otacia Severa and her hook nose comes Herennia Etruscilla, wife of Trajan Decius, with her pug nose. The coins of both are common and affordable. Considering the short reigns of their husbands, four years and two years respectively, you would expect their coins to be scarcer. Perhaps, with the instability of the times, more coins were minted. With such low silver content the emperors may have made a profit in the process. Trajan Decius was killed in A.D. 251, but he and Herennia Etruscilla managed two sons who became short lived emperors.

Salonina, mentioned earlier, was murdered in A.D. 268 along with her husband, Gallienus, ending a reign of 15 years, a relatively long one for that era.

When Diocletian became emperor in A.D. 284 he decided that the task was too great for one man to handle, and to assist him in governing the empire he appointed three associate emperors, Maximianus, Constantius Chlorus and Galerius. The latter was married to Diocletian's daughter,



Otacia
Severa



Herennia
Etruscilla



Salonina



Galeria
Valeria



Helena



Theodora

Galeria Valeria. Her coins are relatively scarce, but low grade specimens are not in great demand.

Constantius Chlorus was married first to Helena, and later to Theodora. His son by Helena was the later emperor, Constantine the Great, who reunited the empire under one ruler, and also revised the coinage on which a number of imperial ladies were portrayed. Fausta, his wife, appears on several AE 3's (19mm bronze coins) that are plentiful. Look to pay \$30-50 or more, but they are worth it. She actually appears on both sides of several types, as does the emperor's mother, Helena. An AE 4 (bronze coin under 17 mm) with her portrait is very inexpensive at \$12-18. The same is true of small bronze coins for Theodora, Constantine's step-mother.

Aelia Flacilla who died in A.D. 386, and Eudoxia, who died in A.D. 404, wives of the emperors Theodosius the Great and Arcadius respectively, are two of the later Roman women. The coinage of both is relatively scarce, although bronze in collectible condition may be had for \$30-50. Aelia Flacilla produced two sons who later became emperors. Eudoxia is credited with virtually running the eastern division of the empire until her death.

In general Roman silver and bronze coins in collectible condition, as opposed to investment condition, are available and affordable, more so than many people believe. Topical collecting, whether of certain emperors, animals, buildings on reverses, or whatever, can be a great source of delight and entertainment, as the Roman women are for me. The variety is enormous, but topical collecting can give you a focus. Just remember to visit your library and get a book on the subject, or, better yet, buy one. It would also be a good idea to seek the advice of a knowledgeable dealer or collector you can trust.



Fausta



Aelia
Flacilla



Eudoxia

A SERENDIPITOUS PASTIME OR HOW WE WERE WAYLAID WHILE TRYING TO RESTORE AN OLD HOUSE

by Pat Perkinson

The tiny silver fan sticking by its point in the sandy soil seemed to be waiting there for me to find it.

Coming back from our dock at Salt House Cove on Locklies Creek in early summer, 1988, noticed a young wild cherry tree beside the lane and stopped to test the sweetness of its fruit. Too tart for my taste! For some reason I stepped from the lane a few rows into the soybean field. Something metallic caught my eye, and I stooped to find a small fan-shaped object. It was a quarter of a coin, a foreign coin, somewhat worn from use — and cultivation. I saw the letters "HILIPP" around the outer edge, and an "F" where the mintmark might be on a U.S. coin. A magnifying glass illuminated a part of a shield in the center depicting a lion, or some such creature, among other symbols. The only clue on the obverse was another lion and the letters "RUM".

Thinking the F might mean "franc", and very obviously unschooled in numismatical matters, I searched for a French regent who'd solve the mystery. But those Philips all seemed to have a single final "P".

Spanish or Portuguese? I'd read that it wasn't uncommon in Colonial commerce to use these and other foreign coins obtained through trading.

Intriguing bits of glass, pottery and china had begun to appear on the surface of the field after our son Russ plowed deeper than usual that spring, and we'd had a couple of heavy rains. We'd learned from an archeologist friend,



Cut Pistareen
found at Prospect

Robert Harper, that these shards were typical of those found on 17th and 18th century sites in this Tidewater area. Since the Middlesex County land had been in a branch of my family (Roanes and Eubanks) since 1789, and in the prominent Colonial family of Beverleys for a century prior to that, our curiosity was piqued. We knew from family stories that there had been an earlier "Prospect" on this property (our present "Prospect" was built about 1820 between the two creeks flanking Grey's Point). We knew too that an early Rappahannock River ferry docked on our shore, and that a store had been situated nearby going back some years. So it didn't seem so unusual that a coin or two may have fallen by the wayside in all that time.

But what was this that seemed to have been looking for me? Longtime friend Peggy Ware told me her friend, Jim Ruehrmund, would surely know. Off I sent my rough sketches, and back came this fascinating account:

"Your find is a very interesting one, and it fits right in with the date of the bottle fragments you have been finding. The piece is a $\frac{1}{4}$ section of a Spanish two real coin, which in Colonial times was called a 'Pistareen'. As

near as I can tell, it was struck in the reign of King Philip V, who reigned from 1700 to 1746. It was probably struck at the mint of Segovia, but I can't be absolutely sure of this since the mintmark is not on the portion you have, but the letter "F", which does appear, is the initial of the Assayer at Segovia. The full inscription reads as follows:

Obverse: * PHIPPPVS * V * D * G *

Reverse: * HISPANIARVM * REX *

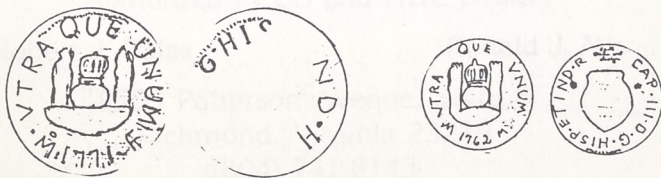
Jim explained that, "during Colonial times almost any coin of gold or silver was readily accepted, but the coins most often encountered were those of Spain and its American Colonies. The practice of cutting up coins to make change was widespread, but fell into disrepute when dishonest persons started cutting coins into five 'quarters'. The cutting of coins was not often done after about 1800, but uncut Spanish coins remained legal tender in this country until 1857."

He surmised my find may have been a stray loss from someone's pocket or that it could have been part of a hoard. He suggested going over the area thoroughly with a metal detector just in case it was the latter. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. But our unsophisticated old detector did lead us to a thimble with an edge bent in, some buttons, and a martingale, a heart-shaped piece of metal used to pin up the tail of a Revolutionary era coat or to decorate the harness of a horse, as Harper later identified it. Were these items spilled from a sewing basket and never retrieved? One of the many mysteries surrounding this serendipitous pastime (or should I say obsession?).

These discoveries whetted Robert's curiosity. With his more advanced detectors he's since provided us with additional Colonial coins and other artifacts for our home "museum".

Among them are two other Spanish coins found just a few inches below the surface. The first he dug was a Spanish quarter or two real piece (a whole Pistareen) dated 1770. Its reverse was much more worn from its buffeting against the sandy soil than was the surface of the "two bit" piece. Jim Ruehrmund says it would have had a 2 to the right of the shield on the back.

The latest find is a Spanish half real coin, 1/16 of a Spanish milled dollar or "Piece of Eight" that Jim further identified from my sketches as of the "Dos Mundos" (Two Worlds) types, "so called from the obverse design, which has two globes surmounted by a crown and placed between two crowned columns. It was issued in the reign of Charles III (1760-1789) and struck at the Mexico City Mint. The reverse type is the crowned arms



Spanish 2 real and half real found by the Perkinsons

of Spain, and the legend reads: CAR.III.D.G.HISP.ETIND.R. The amount of wear indicates that the coin was 20 to 30 or more years old at the time of its loss," he wrote.

We — Robert Harper, my husband Bert and myself — have dug other coins and tokens, including a George III half penny of 1772-1775 vintage. Among post-Revolutionary coins we've found are an 1844 U.S. Large cent, an 1877 quarter, Indian head pennies from the 1800's, and a nickel and pennies of more recent dates, the latter lost no doubt by successive farmers who've also left countless plow parts to ring false alarms on our metal detector.

Among other finds are a Hard Times Token proclaiming "MILLIONS FOR DEFENSE, NOT ONE CENT FOR TRIBUTE"; a commemorative piece, whose centennial is right around the corner, which reads "LAW 13TH ANNUAL LAW MEET WASHINGTON, D.C. JULY 18-20, 1892"; a nickel-sized token of copper that says, as best I can decipher, "5¢ A E S & CO" — no doubt for the store operated in the early 1900's by Archie E. Segar, another Roane-Eubank descendent; and — "prize" of them all — an aluminum Cracker Jack token!

Who lost these coins and tokens we've found? Who trashed the broken wine bottles, bellarmine jugs, buckley earthenware, Chinese porcelain and other shards we've continued to pick up in abundance? Who smoked all the pipes and left stem remnants by the hundreds across the field? Who used the gunflints, English and French, to fire the musket balls? Whose approach was heralded by the brass sleigh bell? Who drank from the fine mid-17th century Venetian wineglass? Who lost or pitched out all those buttons, buckles, upholstery tacks, furniture adornments, and other reminders of life right here in centuries long past?

How gratifying to learn a few documented facts about some of the items themselves from knowledgeable sources such as Jim Ruehrmund and Robert Harper, and from archeologist Ivor Noel Hume's book on Colonial artifacts.

But how tantalizing not to know more than the mere names of just a few of the folks who may have owned and used them so long ago right here on Locklies Creek but a few miles up the Rappahannock from Captain John Smith's encounter with that famous stingray back in 1608.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. Pat Perkinson is a retired employee of the Commonwealth of Virginia, whose service included such posts as press aide to Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. and Secretary of the Commonwealth. She is also a former feature writer for the RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH, and her first article for THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST shows that she has lost none of her touch.

SUTLER PAPER

The Sutler was a civilian who followed the army, and whose business was to provide the soldier with sundries, notions, food, tobacco, etc., that the quartermaster did not issue, and that the soldier could pay for.

During the Civil War the shortage of coins due to hoarding was extreme causing the Sutler to issue his own change. He did this in the form of metal tokens, cardboard and paper scrip. When the soldier was out of money he could obtain credit from the Sutler until Pay Day, up to one third of his monthly pay, by signing a Paymaster Order. The Sutler would then take the Paymaster Order to the Paymaster's table on Pay Day, where he would get his money before the soldier got the balance of his pay.

I am in the process of updating James Curto's list of Sutler Paper Scrip and Paymaster Orders, published in *THE NUMISMATIST*, and put in pamphlet form in 1962, with a Supplement in 1975. In these two pamphlets he lists 101 items of Sutler Scrip and Paymaster Orders. To date I have found reference to 160 additional items. If you have any Sutler Paper, or know where I can find any, please let me know. If possible, I would like to have photocopies of them. In return I will send you an index of all of the items I have located, which includes the denomination, unit served and Sutler's name. Any help you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

Kenneth Keller, 9090 Kinsman-Pymayuning Rd., Kinsman, OH 44428

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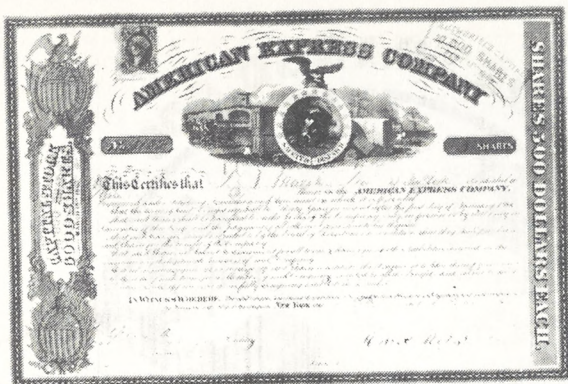
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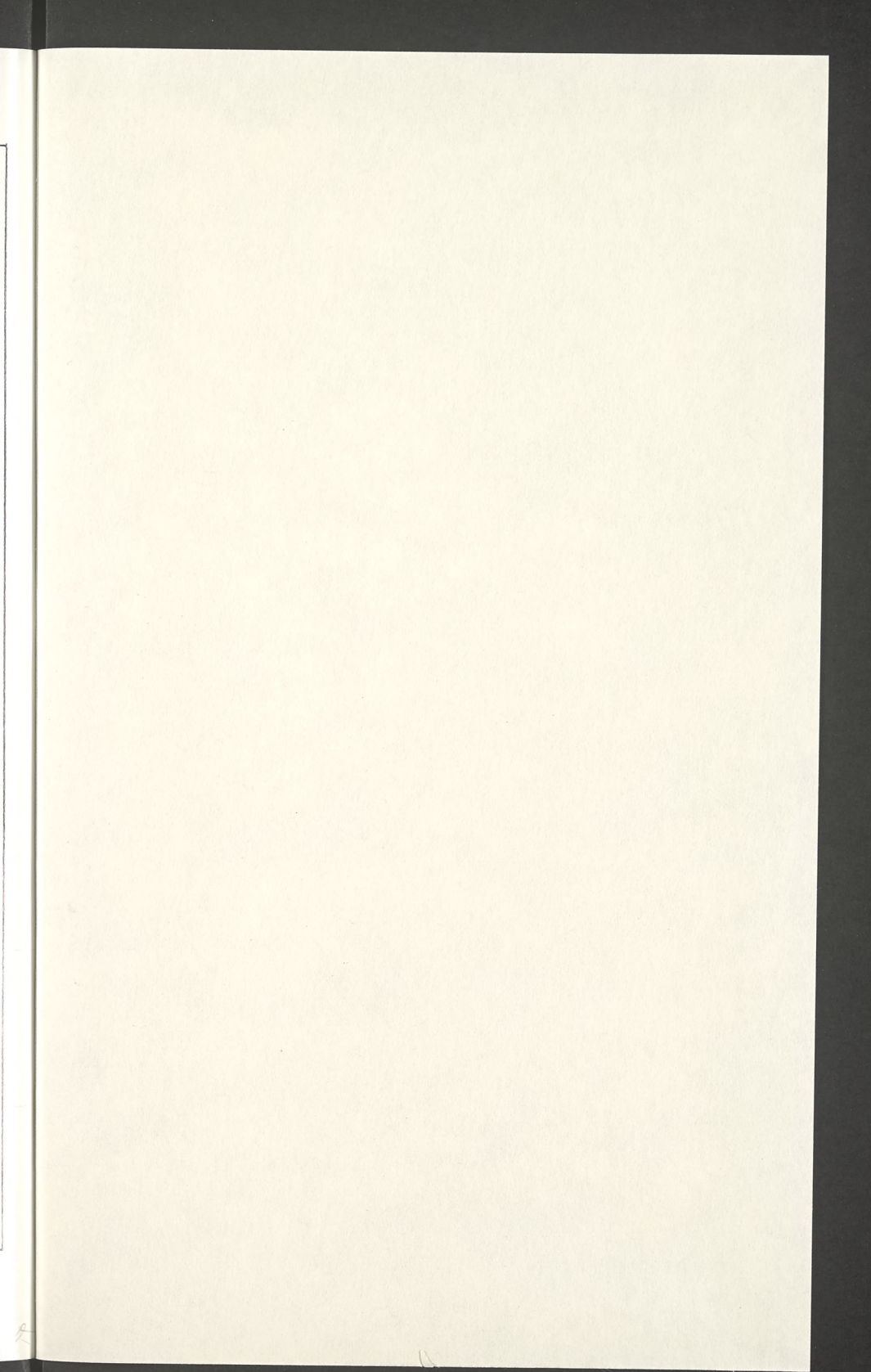
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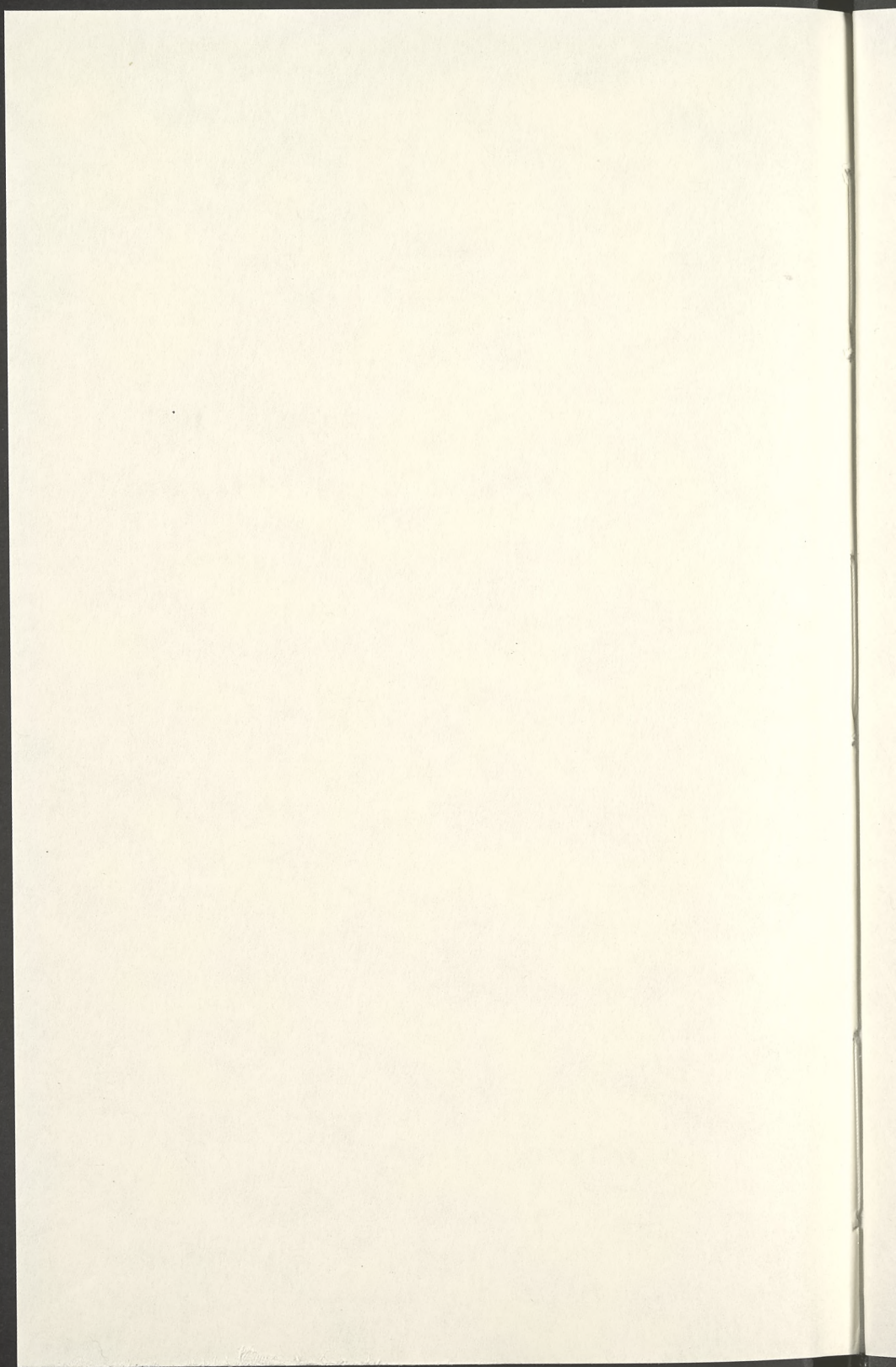
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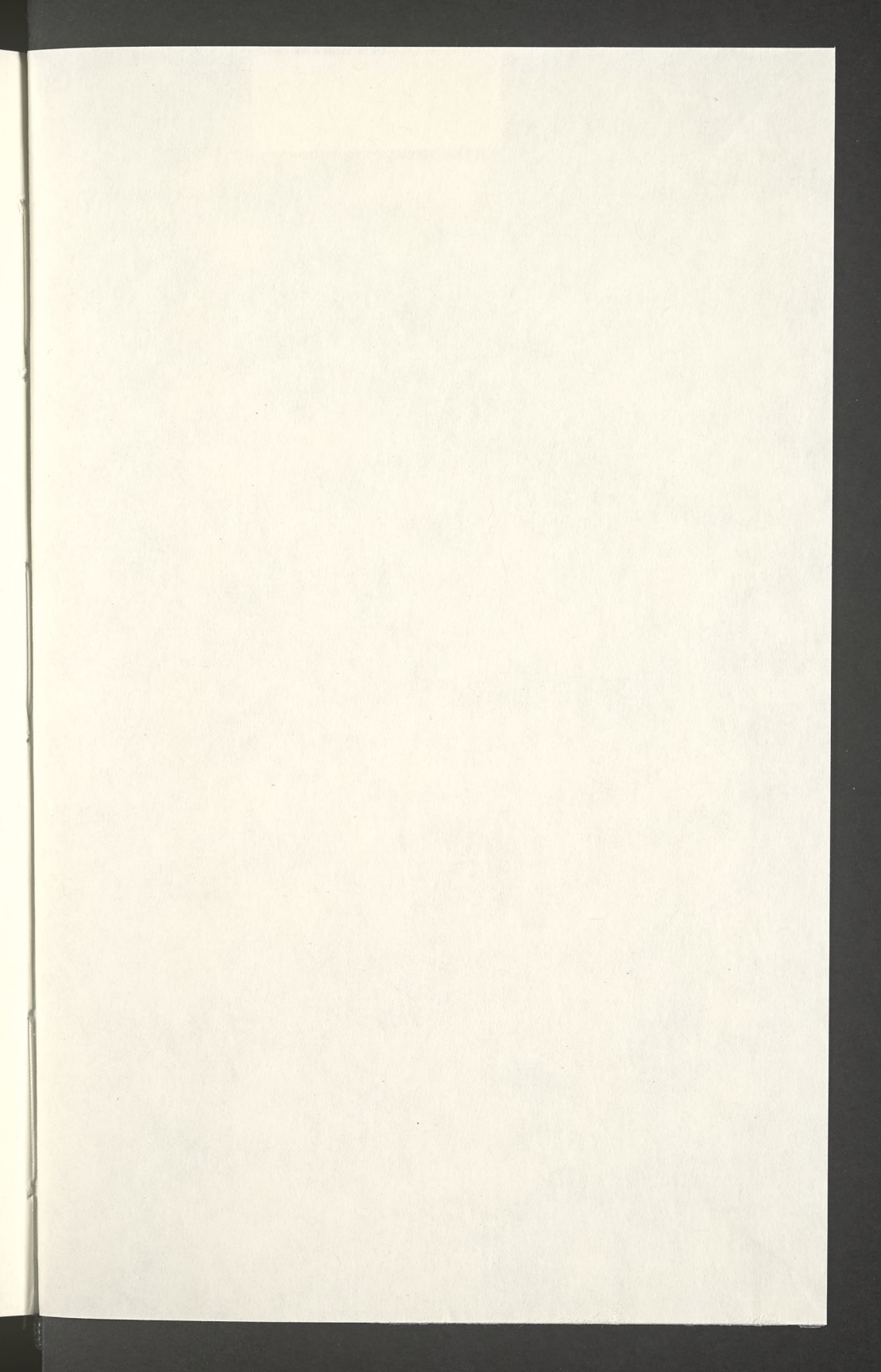
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